Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 279 | WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Dr. Osman is hospital's new DMA. PAGE 3
DPL: Quarry firm owes $9.8M. PAGE 6

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you believe the impeachment proceedings against Gov. Benigno Fitial should be revived in January?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NATION

Superstorm Sandy ran up a bill of $32 billion in New York City.

➤ PAGE 15

ASIA

The Bangladesh factory where at least 112 died had been making clothes for Wal-Mart. ➤ PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE

Justin Bieber faced a hostile homecoming at a halftime performance.

➤ PAGE 21

'FISCAL CLIFF' IMPACTS ON CNMI

Paycheck cuts, US funding cuts

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If the Obama administration and Congress do not reach a deal to address the so-called "fiscal cliff" before Dec. 31, working-class people in the CNMI and the rest of the United States will have less money in their pockets and more will go into paying taxes. Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the CNMI could also get less federal funds because of automatic spending cuts in the U.S.

» **Inos: Draft legislation to use tax hike for Fund deficit reduction**

The fiscal cliff, which national media calls a man-made disaster waiting to happen, will take effect on Jan. 1 and includes $7 trillion worth of tax increases and spending cuts over a decade in the United States, including its territories.

A government or private sector employee earning the CNMI's minimum wage of $5.55 an hour and works 80 hours biweekly, for example, would see an additional $8.88 in deduction from his paycheck every two weeks or $17.76

See PAYCHECK on Page 4

TATTERED FLAG

Ed Cabrera, an employee at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill, takes down and folds yesterday afternoon an American flag whose ends are now tattered and may need to be replaced. For many, it is not respectful to display an American flag when it is already torn, worn, or faded.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Speaker: No job offer from Fitial

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Outgoing House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said yesterday that neither Gov. Benigno R. Fitial nor anyone else offered him a position in government when he steps down in January, amid talks on Capital Hill that he's being offered the position of Finance secretary or his former job as budget officer.

"After my term expires, I will relax a little," Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview. "I have no intention of going back as budget officer or Finance secretary, which requires a bachelor's degree, which I don't [have]."

During the term of former governor Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), now a representative, Cabrera was budget officer at the Office of Management and Budget.

Cabrera

Cabrera said Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson and the governor's special adviser for budget and management Vicky Villagomez "belong to their position."

"There was no promise or offer made, nothing. I met with the governor only twice since the election," he said.

Cabrera also said when he steps down in January, he would be able to spend more time with the family, as well as attend to his backyard. He said he may also open a consultancy.

See SPEAKER on Page 4

Local

‘DB members cannot be treated equally under refund law’

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NMI Retirement Fund trustee *ad litem* Joseph C. Razzano told pension members yesterday that, with the ongoing fiscal challenges at the pension agency, the Fund cannot comply with Public Law 17-82, which authorizes members to elect to terminate their contributions to the program without separating from government service.

In a three-page letter addressed to Fund members, Razzano also clarified what he called as misleading statements made by the administration concerning the public law and the problems created by the statute.

PL 17-82 provides that Class I and Class II members of the Fund’s defined benefit plan may elect to voluntarily terminate their membership with the Fund. The law also directs that any employee who elects to terminate membership shall receive a refund on his/her contributions with regular interest.

According to Razzano, the law does not direct that a terminating DB member shall only receive employee contributions that were remitted to the Fund. Rather, PL 17-82 directs that a terminating DB member shall receive all the employee contributions that were deducted from their paycheck. The Fund, he added, believes that each terminating DB member is entitled to receive all the DB contributions that were deducted from her/his paycheck.

Razzano claimed that there is a problem with PL 17-82.

“Dispensing the first group of checks revealed that all terminating DB members cannot be treated equally under PL 17-82 and that the Fund cannot comply with the law as drafted,” Razzano told members.

Out of the over 1,700 members who submitted refund applications since Sept. 17, only 94 have so far received their checks. The disbursement was suspended after the issuance of this first batch of checks.

The court earlier required the Fund to keep in reserve all employee contributions. Razzano said the Fund complied with this order and, at the time the order was issued in August 2011, the employer contributions were estimated to be nearly $100 million. Under the court order, the employee contributions are the individual property of the members and cannot be used for other purposes other than for the specific benefit of that member.

Last week, the Fund disclosed that on Nov. 15 the Department of Finance remitted $63,602 in employer contributions to allow for one specific individual to retire, leaving behind 12 other individuals who are still waiting to retire and receive their pension pending remittance from Finance.

Razzano also disclosed to members that although employee contributions were remitted to the Fund in fiscal year 2012, this is only true for the Executive Branch employees but not for independent agencies such as the Public School System.

According to the Fund *ad litem*, PSS has not remitted $1.436 million in employees’ contributions in fiscal year 2012.

“This means that PSS deducted contributions from their employees’ checks but, for whatever reason, failed to turn that money over to the Fund,” said Razzano.

Saipan Tribune failed to obtain a comment from Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D, who is currently off-island, while associate commissioner Glenn Muña refused to issue a statement yesterday. PSS acting finance director George Palican, however, told *Saipan Tribune* that he needs to verify the figures before issuing any statement.

According to Razzano, PSS’ failure to remit employee contributions creates a problem for the Fund to comply with PL 17-82. There are now two categories of DB members as a result of PSS’ nonpayment: 1) DB members who have paid 100 percent of their employee contributions; 2) DB members who have not paid 100 percent of their employee contributions because their employer has failed to fully remit.

These categories, according to the *ad litem*, would not exist if PSS had paid all of its employees’ contributions. In order to fully comply with PL 17-82, the Fund needs to receive all DB members’ employee contributions.

Besides the $1.4 million in unremitted employee contributions, PSS also continues to refuse to remit its employer contributions, reaching approximately $34.1 million. Other agencies, it was learned, also failed to remit employer contributions to the tune of approximately $20 million.

Fund’s actuarial report completed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NMI Retirement Fund acting administrator Lillian Pangelinan informed Gov. Benigno R. Fitial that the pension agency’s actuarial valuation report was recently completed by Buck Consultants.

Buck Consultants, in turn, has been invited to Saipan to conduct a presentation for key government officials soon.

Based on the 32-page actuarial report, valuation was conducted as of Oct. 1, 2010, and the results contained report costs applicable to the plan ending Sept. 30, 2011. The purpose of the annual valuation is to provide a basis for determining and certifying the CNMI government contribution to the Fund as required by Public Law 6-17. The report also aims to provide information required to meet financial reporting requirements and monitor the plan’s actual experience relative to the current actuarial assumptions.

The government is the plan sponsor of the retirement program of the Commonwealth.

Buck Consultants revealed that the Fund’s actual unfunded accrued liability as of Oct. 1, 2010, is $622.6 million—a figure higher than what was expected of only $604.8 million. According to the actuary, if the actual unfunded accrued liability is higher than expected, the plan has suffered a loss. In fiscal year 2010, loss of the plan was at $17.7 million.

During the same fiscal year, net assets of Fund that were available for benefits totaled $337.9 million—a decrease from $353.4 million assets recorded in fiscal 2009. This, despite recording return on invested assets of 7.3 percent in fiscal year 2010.

The actuarial present value of accrued benefits in fiscal 2010 is $929.5 million against only $337.9 million assets available for benefits. This results in an unfunded accrued liability of $622.6 million.

The report also disclosed that as of Sept. 30, 2010, a total of $207.7 million in government contributions was classified as uncollectible, compared with $194.4 million as of Sept. 30, 2009.

The Fund also recorded total expenses of $72.9 million composed of the following: $3.3 million in refunds; $67.4 million in benefits; and $2 million in administrative expenses.

Dylan Porter, FSA, director and consulting actuary from Buck Consultants, will be conducting the presentation for government leaders as soon as he arrives on island.

FOR 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAN HOLDINGS

Martin Nievera returns to Saipan for free concert

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Philippine "Concert King" Martin Nievera returns to the Saipan stage for another free concert sponsored by Tan Holdings.

The concert will be held on Nov. 30 at the Hopwood Jr. High School Field in Chalan Piao.

Friday's concert is part of the festivities in celebration of Tan Holdings' 40th anniversary of doing business in Micronesia.

"We want to thank the entire community by providing a pre-Christmas concert, which allows everyone in the community to enjoy for free," said Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan.

Nievera

Tan described Nievera as "a good personal friend" for many years now.

"He is known as 'Concert King' and has lived and performed in Las Vegas in addition to the Philippines. I can guarantee that everyone will enjoy his concert," Tan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Nievera last performed in a free concert for the island community in November 2007 in commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the largest private employer on island.

The concert five years ago drew 8,000 spectators—a testament to the popularity and success of the award-winning singer and songwriter.

Ed Arriola, manager of Tan Siu Lin Foundation, the charitable arm of Tan Holdings, said yesterday that Nievera would be accompanied by his twin sister Vicky and well-known composer to the stars, Louie Ocampo.

Marianas High School's own Rhythm and Harmony Glee Club will also perform at the concert, under the direction of Paul Dujua.

Arriola said that Hopwood Jr. High School was selected as this year's concert venue for its open space and for being a familiar site, having hosted big community events such as the annual Marianas March Against Cancer.

"Tan Holdings works very closely with the Public School System and we were very pleased that Education Commissioner Rita Sablan and school principal Jonas Barcinas agreed to let us hold our concert at the school," he added.

Arriola said that concertgoers are welcome to bring portable chairs and mats for comfortable viewing of the show, noting that it's a non-alcoholic event.

Other sponsors that made the concert possible include IT&E/PTI, Take Care, Quality Distributors, JC Tenorio Enterprises, United Airlines, KWAW, Mobil, First Hawaiian Bank, Glimpses, Aon Insurance, Bank of Hawaii, Shirley's, Jet Holdings, Micronesian Brokers, Saipan Industrial Gas, Marpac, Chong's Corp., Bridge Capital, CMI Construction, Saipan Computer Services, Sunshine Laundry, Western Union, Tropical Laundry, PMT, Traders Insurance, Power 99, Triple J Enterprises, G4S, KZNM/KZMI, Make Over Salon, Luen Fung, Herman's Bakery, JC Marketing, PSS, and Hopwood faculty and staff.

Dr. Osman is hospital's new DMA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dr. Sherleen M. Osman has been appointed as the new director for Medical Affairs for the Commonwealth Health Center.

Osman, the lone nephrologist and medical director for the public hospital's renal section, accepted the offer and will be serving the position on a permanent basis.

The hospital has been operating without a director for Medical Affairs since Dr. Daniel Lamar stopped serving the position temporarily due to differences with Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta and board chair Joaquin Torres. Lamar earlier accepted the DMA post on an interim basis.

The DMA post has been vacant since the resignation of Dr. Jeremy Richards in September this year. He quit the position as he was spending more time with administrative work than his usual clinical work.

Babauta confirmed yesterday that Osman will now serve as the newest member of the corporation board pursuant to the mandates of Public Law 16-51 that created the corporation.

As DMA, Osman will serve as the liaison officer between hospital staff and management.

"I am very grateful that despite her busy schedule as our only nephrologist, she's still willing to help and serve as our DMA. Dr. Osman is very committed to the hospital and we look forward in working with her," Babauta said.

The CEO admitted that finding a permanent DMA for the hospital has been a great challenge because of the amount of time the official will be doing administrative tasks.

Babauta and chief operating officer Esther Muña have agreed to minimize the administrative tasks for Osman so that her clinical hours will not be affected too much.

A few months ago, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services rated CHC's dialysis unit performance as high under the supervision of Osman. The unit's score considerably improved this year, from 18 points in 2010 to an overwhelming 30 points out of a possible 30 points.

On Nov. 16, Babauta appointed Dr. Esther Kanayjorn as the hospital's interim clinical consultant who will perform the duty of a laboratory director, a position that Medicare insisted must be filled immediately.

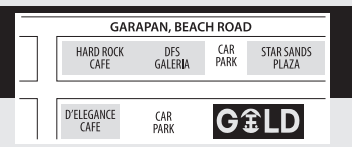
Thai Massage
Ayurvedic
• $20.00-1hr • $25.00-1.5hrs • $30.00-2hrs
We have Certified Therapeutic Thai Massage from Mahidol University. Over 10 years experience!
Open Daily from 11am to 11pm • Tel: 233-2249
2nd Floor, Winchell's Bldg,. Garapan

VISIT YTT GOLD Jewelry 元通金行 TODAY

Exchange your unwanted, damage, outdated and worn gold for CASH!

- Bring any GOLD items to our store in Garapan
- Our Consultants will test and value you GOLD items
- We will give you CASH on the spot!

Tel. No.: 233-2368 | Business Hours: 10:00am - 8:00pm | Sunday Closed
Located behind Duty Free and Star Sands Plaza



New Ferrari model cars
You set the steering

Technical Partner
Scuderia Ferrari

With a cash purchase of 7 gallons or more of Shell V-Power fuel, get your Ferrari model car for only $0.99.

Or, with every Lucky 7 redemption, get a FREE Ferrari model car.

Plus, get Lucky 7 Double Points with Shell V-Power gas purchase.

Shell V-Power

Offer good while supplies last. See store for rules.

Bill giving $166K to PSS, other Saipan projects vetoed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

On his 67th birthday yesterday, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed a local bill giving $166,582 in developers' infrastructure tax to the Public School System and other Saipan projects because the source of funding is "over-appropriated."

Rep. Ray Yumul's (IR-Saipan) House Local Bill 17-90 seeks to appropriate $96,582 to PSS for its water and wastewater program, $20,000 for the Saipan animal shelter sewer disposal system, $30,000 for the construction of a crosswalk fronting Eucon International School and other locations on Saipan, and $20,000 for the construction and improvement of a drainage system by the San Antonio basketball court.

Fitial said the bill appears to be legally sound. He noted that the projects are clearly defined, and each of them is allocated an expenditure authority.

"Unfortunately, the funding limit is inappropriate. I have been advised by the Secretary of Finance that the bill over-appropriates the balance of the account, forcing me to veto this bill in its entirety. Please consult with the secretary of Finance to ensure the proper amount is appropriated in a new bill," Fitial said in his veto message to House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan).

Yumul, when asked for comment, said it seemed to him that the governor wanted an "exact" amount rather than an estimate amount of infrastructure developers' tax anticipated to be collected. He said that, like the CNMI appropriations law, the budget ceiling is based on estimate amount of revenue to be collected in a fiscal year.

"I am not upset about it but if the governor wants to prove a point, then we should not appropriate money until the money comes in. I hope that's not the case. The governor could have just line-item vetoed the bill instead of vetoing it in its entirety. It seems like the governor does not care about PSS, for example. PSS needs money for its water and sewage system," Yumul told *Saipan Tribune*.

Yumul, who will be joining the Senate in the 18th Legislature in January, said he will introduce another bill with the same amount of appropriated developers' tax.

"I take comfort in the fact that the money is still in that account," he said, adding that he won't push for an override of the governor's veto. The House and Senate both need to override a governor's veto, he said.

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed HLB 17-90, D2 on Oct. 31. The original bill appropriated only $77,000 in developers' tax, but that amount grew to over $166,000.

Blue Water Homes' request to return, re-issue $40M LIHTC credits OK'd

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. board of directors approved yesterday the request of Blue Water Homes LLC to return about $40 million worth of tax credits awarded it in 2011, and have them reallocated as tax credits for 2012, giving the company another year to develop the housing project.

The board unanimously approved the request after almost six hours of deliberation under executive session, which also discussed another LIHTC application submitted by a separate company.

Blue Water Homes is the second affordable housing project under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's LIHTC program administered by NMHC. It involves the construction of 80 two-, three-, and four-bedroom units in a nine-storey building.

Michael Sablan, Blue Water Homes representative, said in an interview that their company is very happy about the board's decision, adding that the practice of returning the tax credits and have these reallocated is done "very commonly" in the mainland.

"This is a mechanism provided in the internal revenue code that allows developers who show due diligence in furthering a project another year to complete the project if they meet certain requirements. Blue Water Homes has done a lot this past year trying to find the right site and work with syndicators and investors and we can use the extra year to get this project off the ground," he said.

Juan Carlos Benitez, also representing Blue Water Homes, said at the meeting that two LIHTC housing developers in Guam recently returned their credits and were reallocated back to them by the state housing agency.

Benitez added that Blue Water Homes LLC and NMHC only need to agree on three documents: the mutual consent agreement expressing the reasons why the tax credits had to be returned and the housing agency's decision to reissue them and support the project; the new document awarding the tax credits for 2012; and Form 8609 of the Internal Revenue Service.

Sablan noted that their biggest challenge for the project is to find a suitable property. He said they have looked at six different sites over the last year and almost every site had to deal with probate, Article 12, and title issues, with one of the sites considered "ideal" "but there were community concerns that discouraged us from pursuing that site."

It would be recalled that one of the sites considered by the project developer was in Tamat Beach, but 16 landowners and heirs belonging to the Tamat-Cabrera clan opposed the housing project, citing "social consequences" resulting from the massive development. The group said they support "controlled development" throughout the island.

Another challenge, Sablan said, was the difficulty to sell the CNMI in the investor market due to its remoteness, land restriction issues, and the economic downturn in the islands.

The success of the Sandy Beach Homes, however, encourages them to continue with the project, according to Sablan. Located in Chalan Kanoa, Sandy Beach Homes is the CNMI's first affordable housing project with a price tag of $28.2 million.

Sablan disclosed that Sandy Beach Homes would be fully occupied by the end of the year. "So I think the market is ready for another project," he added.

Isa Villas

The board also approved yesterday the LIHTC application for the housing project called Isa Villas but rejected the application's proposal for tenant-based voucher conversion to project-based housing.

Jesse Palacios, NMHC corporate director, explained that the decision to turn down that aspect of application was due to the need for further research on the matter and to amend the agency's action plan to reflect specific terms and conditions for any similar proposals.

Palacios also cited as reason the federal government working under a continuing resolution, which means that the NMHC still does not know for sure the amount it will receive from HUD in 2013.

Asked if it's possible to revive the application, Palacios said, "It has to be on a competitive basis so that anyone out there can apply."

Joshua T. Sasamoto, president of Marianas Home Inc. which submitted the Isa Villas application, said they are pleased with the board's decision but refused to further comment on the specifics of the project.

"[The decision] basically allows us to move forward now. There's still a lot that has to happen. This is just the first step," he said.

Sasamoto, a former NMHC corporate director, added that he looks forward to continuing the development of affordable housing projects in the Commonwealth in the private side and in partnership with the housing agency.

SPEAKER

From Page 1

The speaker was among the 10 House members who voted "no" in October to a resolution impeaching the governor for 16 allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony. Of the 10, only two got re-elected, while one didn't seek re-election. All nine who voted "yes" to the impeachment resolution won in the Nov. 6 elections.

Other Republicans earlier said the governor offered to help defeated GOP incumbents find a job in government if they are interested, but they said there were no specific job offers. Fitial is president of the Republican Party.

Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan) said Fitial offered to help those who didn't make it in the elections "if we are interested, so it's up to us members." Rep. Sylvester Iguel (R-Saipan) said the governor didn't offer "specific" government jobs, something that Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) echoed.

Pro-impeachment lawmakers and supporters said it won't be surprising if the governor promised jobs "in exchange for protecting the governor against impeachment" or for running in the mid-term polls.

PAYCHECK

From Page 1

a month.

"That $17-plus could [be] used to buy a sack of rice and other food items to feed my family. Instead, it will go to more paycheck tax. We barely couldn't afford the taxes deducted from our paycheck right now and we'd see more deductions," Osmundo Roxas, 53, said yesterday.

Government and private sector workers' paychecks will shrink next year because the 2 percent U.S. Social Security tax holiday for employees will expire on Dec. 31, unless extended by Congress and the Obama administration.

Without an extension of the tax holiday, employees' Social Security tax deduction every payroll will go back to 6.2 percent, from the current 4.2 percent. Employers' share will still be 6.2 percent.

Social Security and Medicare are covered by the Federal Insurance Contribution Act, or FICA, taxes that are deducted from the payroll of working-class people.

A minimum wage earner working 80 hours biweekly will have $230.88 that will be taken out of his annual payroll, on top of what is already being deducted from his paycheck right now.

Inos, who oversees government finances and a former Finance secretary, said this means "diminished disposable income" for employees paying federal taxes.

"And that also means money that is not available (or not circulating in) the local economy," Inos said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday afternoon.

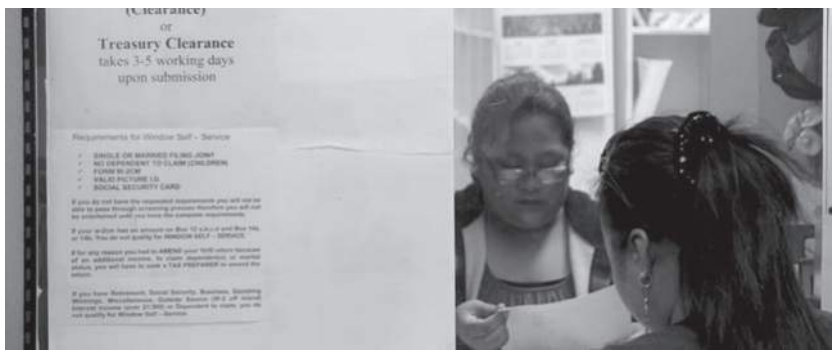
However, he said whatever amount is deducted from one's paycheck will go to an employee's Social Security or Medicare contributions, which will benefit them later.

Someone who makes $50,000 a year will pay another $1,000 in payroll taxes in 2013 if the tax holiday is not extended.

For employees like Roxas, more deductions mean less food on the table. And because he is a foreign worker in the CNMI, he might not even benefit from the regular FICA deductions in his paycheck, he said.

Once Filipino and Korean workers, for example, lose their job in the CNMI, the payroll deductions stop and their contributions are good as forfeited.

""It's like we're just giving our money to the U.S. government. I hope the U.S. will approve the CNMI government's request to exempt Filipino and Korean workers from paying FICA taxes," he said. "We don't even reach 80 hours per payroll, we only have 60 work hours per payroll. It's going to be more difficult for workers like us who are already earning too little to begin with."



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

If the Obama administration and Congress fail to craft a deal to address the so-called "fiscal cliff" before Dec. 31, working-class people in the CNMI will have less money in their pockets and more will go into paying taxes.

Other impacts

Inos said the Bush era tax cuts will also expire unless the Obama administration and Congress strike a deal to extend them. This means income tax rates will go back up to their pre-Bush rates.

"The rates now are much lower than the pre-Bush tax rates," Inos said. "We pay income tax but currently on the reduced rate."

Inos said any income tax rate reversion to its former level will result in more collection for the government.

"We are drafting legislation right now that would capture additional taxes as a result of these tax increases…to go into a deficit reduction fund that will be applied to the [NMI Retirement] Fund liability," he said.

The government owes the NMI Retirement Fund over $300 million.

"It will go down once the effect of Public Law 17-82 is calibrated into the whole formula," he added.

Inos said the CNMI will also receive less federal funds as a result of the fiscal cliff. This depends on the federal department, agency, or program that will have expenditure cuts.

The CNMI receives more federal funds in a year than it generates in local revenue.

"The whole nation, the federal government, is at risk in many areas. We will feel it here. What programs would be affected remain to be seen. It is our hope that as much as we want to wean ourselves off many of the entitlement programs through positive economic development, the whole idea with the effort, at least with the current Obama administration, is to maintain the entitlement level—food stamp, SSI, Medicare," Inos added.

CNN reports that among the policies at issue concerning the fiscal cliff are: reductions in both defense and non-defense spending; the expiration of the Bush tax cuts; the end of a payroll tax holiday and extended unemployment benefits; and the onset of reimbursement cuts to Medicare doctors.

In addition, the debt ceiling—the legal limit on federal borrowing—will need to be raised by early next year from its current level of $16.394 trillion.

"If left in place, the fiscal cliff would lead to the biggest single-year drop in the annual deficit as a percent of the economy since 1969. But because it would be so abrupt and arbitrary, it also could throw the United States back into a recession next year, when more than $500 billion will be taken out of the economy. To avoid that, President Obama and Congress will need to act quickly to avert at least some parts of the fiscal cliff," CNN reported.

Child tax credit could also fall to $500 per child from $1,000. The refundable portion will also be reduced.

40th YEAR
Tan Holdings
Established 1972

Please join us as we thank the community
for 40 years of support and partnership
in the Micronesian Region!

MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE!

Featuring:
LOUIE OCAMPO AND
VICKI NIEVERA

Special opening performance by
RHYTHM 'N HARMONY
Under the direction of Paul Dujua
(THE MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL GLEE CLUB)

Hopwood Jr High Field
Friday, November 30, 2012
Show starts at 8pm

Admission is FREE

#Quality DISTRIBUTORS
MEAT • SEAFOOD • FOOD PRODUCTS
TakeCare®
J.C. Tenorio Enterprises Incorporated
IT&E Life in Motion
IP&E
UNITED
Magic 100(fm)
Mobil®
First Hawaiian Bank
AON Aon Insurance Micronesia (Saipan)
Bank of Hawaii
Business Journal
beach road
Bridge Capital, LLC
CMI General Construction
CHONG'S CORPORATION
G4S Group 4 Securitas
J.E.T. HOLDINGS COMPANY
J's Restaurant
103.9 KZMI Super Hits
Power 99
Luen Fung Enterprises
Micronesian Brokers (CNMI), Inc.
MAR PAC
Saipan Industrial Gas
SCS Saipan Computer Services
Shirley's COFFEE SHOP
SUNSHINE LAUNDRY
TRIPLE J WHOLESALE
Traders Insurance Company
TROPICAL LAUNDRY
WESTERN UNION
PMT
JC Marketing, Inc.
Make Over Beauty Salon

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Partners in Education

The Saipan Tribune would like to acknowledge these fine sponsors who are committed to education in the CNMI. Thank you all for ensuring that our children receive the worlds most up to date textbook: the newspaper.

PLATINUM SPONSORS

Mobil®
- Eucon International School
- Hopwood Junior High School
- Kagman Elementary School
- Marianas Baptist Academy
- Marianas High School
- Mt. Carmel School
- Saipan Community School
- Saipan International School
- San Antonio Elementary School
- Tanapag Elementary School

Tan Siu Lin Foundation
- Dan Dan Elementary School
- Garapan Elementary School
- Grace Christian Academy
- G.T. Camacho Elementary School
- Hopwood Junior High School
- Kagman High School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- Saipan International School
- Tanapag Elementary School
- WSR Elementary School

SILVER SPONSORS

Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center
- Cha Cha Junior High School
- Kagman High School
- Marianas High School
- Saipan Southern High School

IT&E Life in Motion
- Hopwood Junior High School
- Kagman High School
- Marianas High School
- Saipan Southern High

TakeCare®
- Grace Christian Academy
- Mt. Carmel School
- San Antonio Elementary School
- San Vicente Elementary School

Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic
- Cha Cha Junior High School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- Saipan SDA School
- WSR Elementary School

BRONZE SPONSORS

Bridge Capital, LLC
- Garapan Elementary School
- Grace Christian Academy

CIC Century Insurance
- Hopwood Junior High School
- Marianas High School

COSMOS Distributing Co., Ltd
- Garapan Elementary School
- Marianas High School

D&Q International Distributors A TanHoldings Company
- Tanapag Elementary School
- San Vicente Elementary School

POI Aviation
- Dan Dan Elementary School
- San Vicente Elementary School

Richard & Marian Aldan Pierce
- Kagman Elementary School
- WSR Elementary School

Shirley's COFFEE SHOP
- Oleai Elementary School
- San Antonio Elementary School

If your company wants to participate in our program,
please contact Celia Pillarina at 235-2440 ext. 171 or e-mail celia_pillarina@saipantribune.com

DPL: Quarry firm owes $9.8M

»Agency says JG Sablan 'insolvent or nearly insolvent'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The dispute over public land in Lower Base continues in federal court, with the Department of Public Lands urging the court to deny JG Sablan Rock Quarry Inc. and owner John T. Sablan's opposition to the temporary restraining order being sought by the agency.

In a five-page document filed on Nov. 26, assistant attorney general Charles E. Brasington described JG Sablan's argument in opposing the TRO as conclusory and one-sided and that it fails to consider the irreparable injury being suffered by DPL.

DPL cited three main arguments, including allegations that the company owes DPL over $9.8 million and that the firm is insolvent or nearly insolvent.

JG Sablan is suing DPL for terminating its repair shop permit on Dec. 16, 2009. DPL wants the court to declare JG Sablan to be unlawfully occupying the quarry since July 2012.

In its latest filing, DPL said that JG Sablan continues to trespass both at the repair shop and quarry. It enters these public lands on a daily basis with no legal right to do so as its permits had expired and were terminated, DPL said.

Second, DPL alleges that JG Sablan is mining the quarry and removing quarry material from public land. Once quarried, DPL said this material cannot be restored to its original state.

Third, DPL believes that JG Sablan is insolvent or nearly insolvent as it currently owes the agency $9,854,338.73 on its accounts.

"The destruction of DPL's locks and the unlawful conversion of DPL's property adds to this amount with each rock quarried. In light of the vast debt already owed by plaintiff, it seems very doubtful that plaintiff will be able to make good on the injuries inflicted by its continuing tortuous conduct, thus making this a considerable factor in the irreparable nature of the harms suffered by the DPL," the DPL filing stated.

According to Brasington, the arguments earlier presented by JG Sablan in opposing DPL's TRO request ignore the facts of the case and have no support in fact or law.

JG Sablan earlier argued that DPL has created the situation and therefore is not entitled to equitable relief.

DPL said that JG Sablan obtained temporary land use permits, which allowed it to maintain a repair shop and engage in quarry operations. These permits, according to DPL, have long since expired and that JG Sablan was operating as a holdover-permitee until this status was finally terminated by DPL. Despite this termination, JG Sablan refuses to vacate the public land and currently owes DPL over $9.8 million on all of its accounts. According to DPL, pursuant to the permits, JG Sablan agreed that upon termination, DPL could evict the plaintiff and reenter the public land without court action.

"It is the plaintiff, not defendant, who violated these provisions of the permits. In both the repair shop and quarry permits, plaintiff promised to quietly and peacefully vacate the public land upon expiration or termination of the permit. Instead of vacating the public land as promised, plaintiff continues break into the public land and destroy it. Thus, plaintiff operates with unclean hands and equity favors the DPL," the DPL filing states.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE FOR THE LOADING BRIDGES
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-0014-12

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the Preventive Maintenance for the Loading Bridges of the International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing monthly maintenance services for the loading bridges for a period of two (2) years as detailed in the Scope of Work. The proposal package which includes the scope of work and evaluation factors will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Wednesday, **November 28, 2012**. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to the **RFP** shall take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance for the Loading Bridges.** One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2012,** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

All proposals will be evaluated on the following factors: (1) financial resources (2) price, (3) technical experience, and (4) sufficiency of workers.

Proposer will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

A non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, and Departure Building at 10:00 a.m., **December 14, 2012**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions must be in writing and faxed to the Executive Director's Office at (670)234-5962 or via email at **cpa.admin@pticom.com** at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-proposal conference.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request For Proposals: or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA Further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibilities in any act of omission on the part of offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the proposal or supply under the contract. This RFP does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offeror will be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Date: 11/27/2012

Three Guam cops charged in sex trafficking case

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Three Guam police officers allegedly involved in a brothel where Micronesian women and a 16-year-old girl were forced into prostitution are facing additional charges.

According to the *Pacific Daily News,* the three officers now are facing kidnapping charges.

The new indictment in the Blue House case adds seven new charges, including some with as many as a dozen counts, the paper reports. One officer is charged with rape. All five suspects in the case are set to go to trial during the first week in January. They face more than 60 counts on 26 separate charges.

The brothel was run out of six rooms in a bar called the Blue House Lounge, which was open from 2004 to 2008. The bar's 70-year-old owner, Song Ja Cha, was sentenced to life in prison in September for the sex trafficking scheme.

Two witnesses testified that officers visited the Blue House three times a week.

Prosecutors presented their case to a grand jury in secret on Friday. The new indictment was circulated later to attorneys in the case during a Superior Court of Guam hearing.

Defense attorneys have argued the government had a three-year window to prosecute the officers for their alleged crimes, but Assistant Attorney Nelson Werner said this window remains open as long as the suspects are still officers.

Werner pointed to a section of Guam law that affects government employees. The section states that, if the alleged crime is "based upon misconduct in office," the statute of limitations doesn't expire as long as the employee still has the same job.

The defendants' lawyers are trying to get the case dismissed. They argue that the government took too long to indict the officers for their alleged crimes and that the officers were brought to court too slowly after their arrest.

Judge Anita Sukola has not yet made a decision on any of the motions to dismiss.

Fiesta hosts Thanksgiving lunch for *man'amko*

Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan hosted a Thanksgiving lunch for approximately 60 *man'amko* (senior citizens) at the Hibiscus Hall on Nov. 21. This is the fourth time that Fiesta hosted this special Thanksgiving event.

Fiesta resident manager Abner Acosta opened the event with a warm address, welcoming the *man'amko* to the resort and acknowledging their significance in the community.

The feast included delicious traditional Thanksgiving items, such as beautifully prepared turkey and ham, as well as salad, sushi, fruits, and some delicious desserts.

The event was highlighted with a cha-cha contest. Six *man'amko* each won a gift certificate for lunch for two.

Fiesta purchasing manager Wellington Ang was the emcee of the day. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan resident manager Abner Acosta, second from right, lead other officials and staff of Fiesta in serving a traditional Thanksgiving luncheon for the man'amko on Nov. 21.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

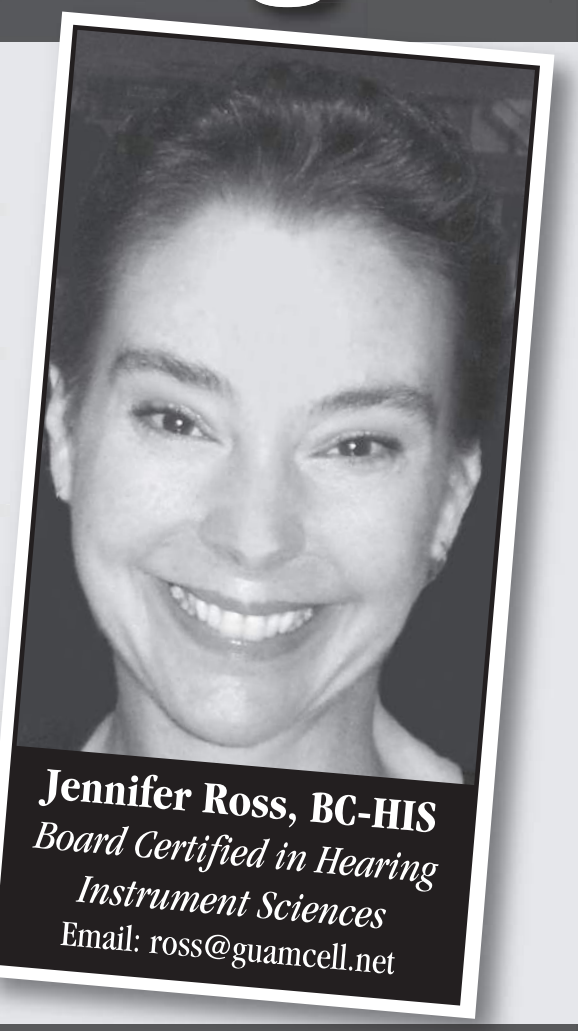
The man'amko feast on traditional Thanksgiving items, such as turkey and ham, salad, sushi, fruits, and delicious desserts during a Thanksgiving luncheon hosted by the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

INVENTORY SALE
PRINTING PRESS SUPPLIES
NEGATIVE PS PLATE DEVELOPER 5 LITERS $37.00
SAPPHIRE FILM DEVELOPER REFLENISHER 5 LITERS $30.00
SAPPHIRE FILM FIXER REPLENISHER 5 LITERS $30.00
ABC ROLLER WASH 1 GAL. $27.70
ABC GREEN FOUNT 20 LITERS $125.00
ABC GUM SOLUTION GAL. SOLD OUT $12.90
ABC MASTER SPRAY POWDER 1 KG. $13.25
WESTERN PN RED DEVELOPER 1 GAL. $78.00
BLUE LABEL PLATE CLEANER 1 LITER $12.80
GRAINING SAND 25 KG. $23.00
BLANCHER OFFSET INK MADE IN FRANCE - 1 KG.
BLACK : $12.25
CYAN : $15.25
MAGENTA : $15.25
YELLOW : $15.40
KLEENTEC OFFSET INC MADE IN KOREA - 1 KG.
BLACK : $8.25
BLUE : $9.50
RED : $9.50
YELLOW : $9.75
KURO FILM FOR IMAGESETTER 63.5cm x 60m $455.00
NEWSPRINT PAPER 34-1/8" x 24-1/8" 1 REAM (480 SHEETS) $21.50
NEWSPRINT PAPER 32" x 24" 1 REAM (480 SHEETS) $21.50
Saipan Tribune Inc. • Tels.: (670) 235-2440; 235-8747; 235-6397; 235-2769

How's Your Hearing?

Specializing in:

- Hearing Evaluations
- Custom fitted hearing aids
- Digital and Programmable Technology
- Custom Communication Devices



Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS
Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences
Email: ross@guamcell.net

- **Friday, November 30th 8:30am - 5:00pm**
- **Saturday, December 1st 9:00am - 2:00pm**

at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan

All interested patients should call Marianas Medical Clinic for scheduling

234-3925/7

Insurance accepted: AETNA and Medicaid

BOARD CERTIFIED NATIONAL BOARD FOR HEARING INSTRUMENT SCIENCES CERTIFICATION NBC HIS

Ross Hearing Aids

REAC inspection on Rota by Jan. 2013

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rota subdivision of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. will undergo a Real Estate Assessment Center inspection by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development early next year, according to corporate director Jesse Palacios.

Palacios informed the board in yesterday's meeting that REAC inspector William Wong will conduct the inspection on January 2013.

The mission of REAC is to provide and promote the use of accurate, timely, and reliable information assessing the condition of HUD's portfolio; to provide information to help ensure safe, decent, and affordable housing; and to identify fraud, abuse, and waste of HUD resources.

Wong conducted last September REAC inspections on three of four NMHC subdivisions: Mihaville and Koblerville on Saipan, and the Tinian subdivision.

Out of a possible 100 points, both subdivisions on Saipan received an 88-point rating, while the Tinian subdivision scored 97.

The Rota subdivision was not included in the inspection due to lack of flights to the southern island.

Given the Rota inspection schedule, Palacios noted that NMHC's "walk-through" inspection on the Rota subdivision would have to be performed within December in preparation for Wong's arrival.

Meanwhile, Palacios said that they are still working on transferring to the NMHC Tinian field office the equipment, phone, and fax line leases it previously shared with the Commonwealth Development Authority, which decided to close down its Tinian office.

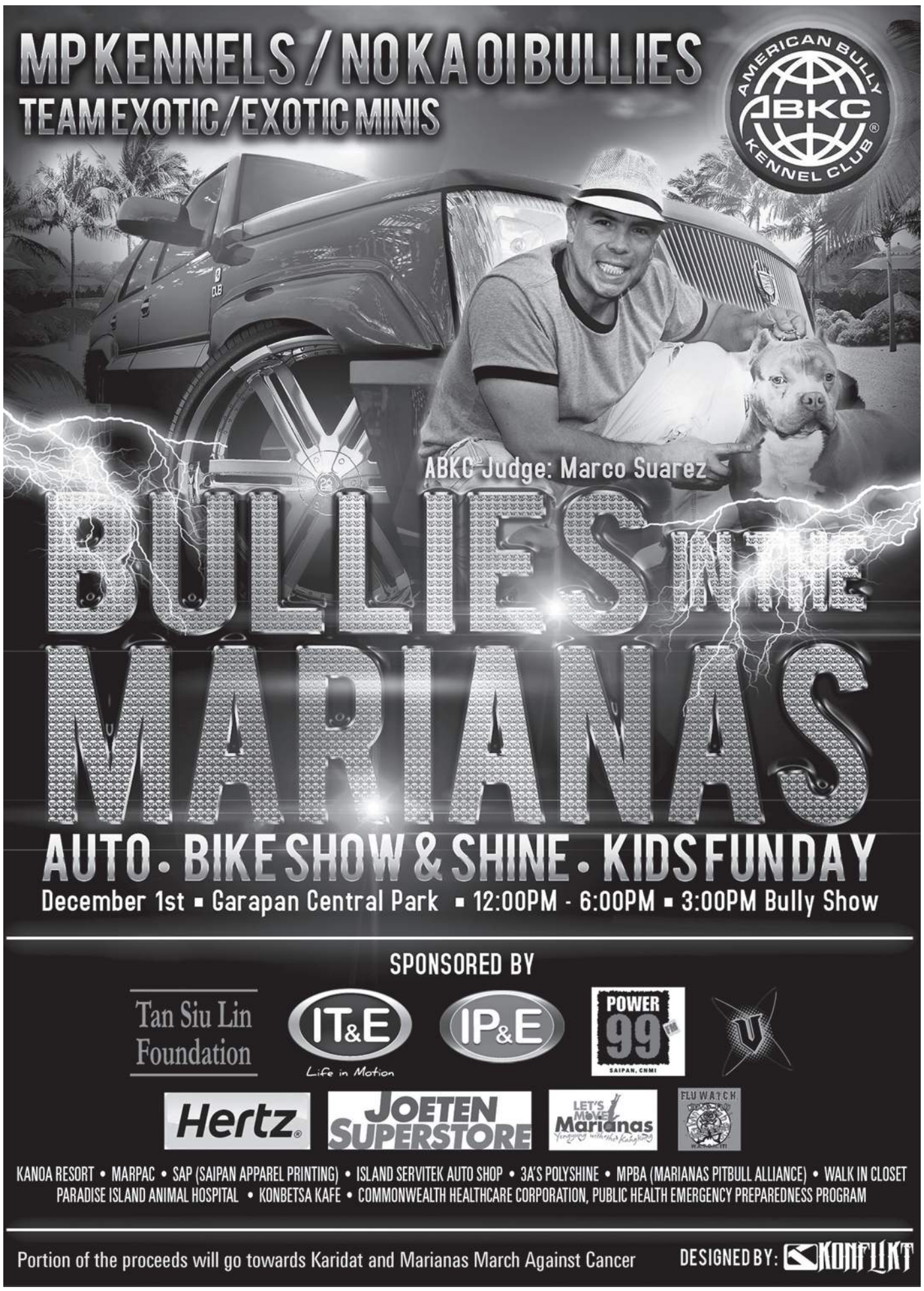
Board chair Marcie M. Tomokane said the transfer is still in progress and is expected to be completed within the week.

Guam near finalizing deal for port cranes

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam is about to finalize a deal to buy three refurbished cranes for $12 million.

The *Guam Pacific Daily News* says Matson Navigation and Horizon Lines are selling the cranes jointly, which have been in use at Guam's only seaport for civilian cargo since they were transported on barges to Guam in 2009.

Vice Speaker Benjamin Cruz says he's renewing his criticism of the $12 million purchase. Cruz says it would be better for the government to buy two new cranes rather than three used ones that an expert found would need $9 million more to last another five to 20 years.


MP KENNELS / NO KA OI BULLIES
TEAM EXOTIC / EXOTIC MINIS
AMERICAN BULLY ABKC KENNEL CLUB
ABKC Judge: Marco Suarez
BULLIES IN THE MARIANAS
AUTO • BIKE SHOW & SHINE • KIDS FUN DAY
December 1st ▪ Garapan Central Park ▪ 12:00PM - 6:00PM ▪ 3:00PM Bully Show
SPONSORED BY
Tan Siu Lin Foundation
IT&E Life in Motion
IP&E
POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI
Hertz
JOETEN SUPERSTORE
LET'S MOVE Marianas
FLU W.A.T.C.H.
KANOA RESORT • MARPAC • SAP (SAIPAN APPAREL PRINTING) • ISLAND SERVITEK AUTO SHOP • 3A'S POLYSHINE • MPBA (MARIANAS PITBULL ALLIANCE) • WALK IN CLOSET
PARADISE ISLAND ANIMAL HOSPITAL • KONBETSA KAFE • COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION, PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM
Portion of the proceeds will go towards Karidat and Marianas March Against Cancer
DESIGNED BY: KONFLIKT

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 28, 2000

BOE nixes plan to relocate proposed high school

The State Board of Education will push through with original plans to construct the proposed Kagman High School on a 3.9-hectare land reserved for the school project despite clamors to build the campus on a larger piece of property. BOE vice chair Roman Benavente said yesterday the board had to pass on a House Committee on Education offer to relocate the public high school's construction site to an agricultural land due to an ongoing mitigation project around the proposed area. "Not only will the construction disrupt the flow of the existing projects being handled by the Dept. of Lands and Natural Resources and the Army Corps of Engineers, but it will also create some setbacks for the contractors," said Benavente.

Coalition clears stand on foreign students initiative

Top officials from the Coalition of Private Schools disclosed yesterday the group stands pat on its position to block efforts promoting the open admission of foreign students into the Northern Marianas despite dissenting opinions. The group said it plans to meet with the House Committee on Education in the next scheduled public hearing to present its official stand on the issue. Organization leader Scott Norman also countered beliefs that the issue is dividing the coalition, citing a unanimous call among its members to go against the legislative initiative.

Nov. 28, 2001

Fund eyes changes in enabling legislation

Citing several inconsistencies between its enabling legislation and rules and regulations, the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund is set to embark on another major project-the revision of the law that created it and the rules and regulations that govern its existence. During last Tuesday's board meeting, the Fund's Board of Trustees agreed to create a three-member committee that would work with Fund legal counsel Kathleen Troy-Rucker and acting Administrator Takeo George in identifying disparities between the Fund's enabling legislation and its rules and regulations. Besides correcting inconsistencies, Troy-Rucker said they also intend to clarify vague provisions in the enabling legislation so that it will not lend itself to different interpretations, thus avoiding creating more problems for the Fund.

Benavente: Nurture existing industries

The Commonwealth should nurture its existing industries - garment manufacturing and tourism - by continuously blocking any federal takeover attempt, which is believed disastrous to the local business community. Lt. Gov.-elect Diego T. Benavente made this statement as he reiterated the incoming administration's opposition to a federal takeover of local immigration and minimum wage controls. The garment industry accounts for over $20 million in annual government revenue generated through taxes. The 34 garment factories on Saipan provide more than 15,000 jobs in the Commonwealth, aside from the industry's multiplier effect on the economy.

Nov. 28, 2002

'No changes in MPLA priorities'

Newly appointed Marianas Public Lands Authority commissioner Henry Hofschneider said there will be no changes in terms of agency priorities following his assumption to the top post. "We'll have the same priorities. I don't think there will be changes unless the board tells us so. It pretty much depends on the board," Hofschneider said Tuesday. He said the agency now actively works with the Commonwealth Development Authority on the $40-million bond for land compensation. "This is one thing that we're putting our heads into," he said. Asked when can the government possibly start releasing the payment, Hofschneider said it would not happen in at least three months.

Bids sought for $19M loan

The Department of Finance has begun soliciting proposals from financial institutions that are interested in loaning the CNMI government the $19 million it needs to pay for its tax refund and rebate obligations. The department, through its Procurement and Supply Division, began the publication of a Request for Proposal advertisement starting today, expressing its intent to borrow $19 million to pay off refunds and rebates. The RFP expressly specified that interested parties should be insured with the Federal Depository Insurance Corp. This narrows the field to mostly banks.

IP&E spreads Christmas cheer with donations, promo

IP&E officials launched Monday a new station offering by donating cash and Christmas gifts to Karidat Social Services and CHC Volunteers Association. Customers at all Shell stations can avail of new Ferrari model cars for only .99 cents with every cash purchase of 7 gallons or more of Shell V-Power fuel. Alternatively, customers can get a free Ferrari model car with every Lucky 7 redemption during the promotional period.

"We're pleased to be able to bring back this popular offer, in the latest Ferrari car versions, for our customers. The model cars make great Christmas gifts so the timing of this promotion works out well," said Jeff Boyer, IP&E CNMI area manager. "We're also proud to be able to launch the campaign with donations of both cash and cars to two very special groups. Karidat Social Services and CHC Volunteers Association are two groups that serve critical functions within our community, particularly at this time of year. We're hoping to make this holiday season a more joyous one for our children in need."

The donations were made during a reception at Hard Rock Café Saipan. Representatives from IP&E, Karidat Social Services, and CHC Volunteers Association were on hand to accept the donations and kick off the holiday season.

The Ferrari Model Car promotion is expected to last throughout the holiday season. Model cars will be made available while supplies last. There are a total of six different models in the collection.

Shell, as a global company, has been working with Ferrari for over 60 years and Shell V-Power is the result of their shared passion for performance. It is the result of this pursuit of perfection that makes Shell a leader in the development of fuels technology by reviving the engine and removing deposits caused by ordinary gasoline and providing customers with enhanced engine protection for their prized possession, the automobile, the second most expensive investment for most families. ***(IP&E)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SHEFA application deadline

Spring 2013 Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance application deadline for new and returning* applicants is Dec. 3, 2012. Note: For those who submitted an application on or before July 1 for fall 2012, you do not have to submit another application. Visit our website as www.saipanshefa.com for more information or contact us at (670) 233-5995. *You are considered a returning applicant if its been over a year since you applied or received financial assistance from SHEFA. ***(SHEFA)***

DUI checkpoints on Saipan

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints on Saipan on Nov. 30, 2012, with the first setup from 12am to 1:15am, along Beach Road Chalan Laulau by Char's Mart. The second setup is from 2:30am to 3:45am, along Chalan Pale' Arnold by the Commonwealth Development Authority Office. Traffic and patrol officers will also be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement. ***(DPS)***

Marine Corps training on FDM

The U.S. Marine Corps will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Nov. 29, from 12:30pm to 8:30pm, and Nov. 30, from 9am to noon and 2pm to 8pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical-mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

Workshop for W-2CM tax form

The Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Finance, is advising all employers that there will be a workshop for the Annual Wage and Salary Statement, Form W-2CM, for tax year 2012 and other 2012 yearend filing requirements. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012. The first session will be from 8am to 11am and the second session will be from 1pm to 4pm at the Multi-Purpose Center. Businesses, employers, and all payroll service companies are encouraged to attend. Confirm your attendance by calling the Administration Office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation at telephone numbers 664-1098 or fax at 664-1015. ***(DOF)***

Editor's Note: Parents are being encouraged to read the following to their children to raise their interest, then come see the show as staged by the Friends of the Arts.

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

(or An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas)

By MAJOR HENRY LIVINGSTON JR. (1748-1828)
(previously believed to be by Clement Clarke Moore)

Second part of a series

I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;
"Now, DASHER! now, DANCER! now, PRANCER and VIXEN!
On, COMET! on CUPID! on, DONDER and BLITZEN!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my hand, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

It seemed they were leaving, now they seem to be breaking in to my house. Should I wake the children? Should I call the police? I will just wait and see. Stay tuned…

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

(01) Registered Nurse
- Must pass NCLEX with current CNMI RN License.
- At least two or five years experience.
- Must hold a degree of Bachelor of Science in nursing.
- English Language skills-Proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

(01) Front Office Manager
- At least over five years experience in medical billing, electronic health records and practice partner record.
- English Language skills-Proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- College graduate
- Must be familiar with medical terminology, ICD 9, coding of medical procedure and diagnosis
- Must be certified pharmacy technician
- Must be proficient in computer skills, spread sheet and general accounting skills.

(01) Ultrasound/X-Ray Technician
- At least five years experience or related field
- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Technology
- Must be over five years experience in electronic health and practice partner records
- Experience/ Knowledge with Practice Partner software in electronic health records usage.
- Licensed by the medical Profession Licensing Board, CNMI

(01) Health Clinic System Manager
- A minimum of two to four years of work-related skill, knowledge, or experience.
- Bachelor's degree, or equivalent.
- Maintains specialized computer programs relating to health care operations (medical billing, patient records, scheduler)
- Maintenance of all Company's computer systems to include computer hardware, computer software, computer network and advance server skills.
- Overseas medical billing department utilizing specialized computer software.
- Overseas administrative areas and designs, develops and maintains a paperless computer system.
- Building maintenance repair, electronic record and prescription with meaningful use in compliance with medical and Medicaid standards.
- Performs such other duties as may be assigned.

(01) Clinic/Yard Maintenance
- Preferred skills and experience
- Building Construction/Renovation experience
- Experience solar maintenance pv models
- Must have a valid CNMI driver's license
- Must be flexible with time schedule

Please submit applications or resume to Health Professional Corporation dba Saipan Health Clinic at Chalan Kiya, Saipan or call Connie or Judy at (670) 234-2901 ext. 124 for more information.

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY, INC.

Job Vacancy Announcement

(04) Registered Nurse
- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License
- Attended a hemodialysis-training program
- Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- One to five years' hemodialysis experience or related field
- English Language skills-Proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- Certified nephrology Nurse (CNN) – Preferred
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.

(01) Licensed Practical Nurse
- Must pass NCLEX-LPN and current CNMI LPN License
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- One to four years hemodialysis experience or related field
- English Language skills-Proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resusciation.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.

(04) Building Maintenance & Repair
- Performs a variety of preventive maintenance and repair tasks on the facilities equipment, including some of the more complex repair tasks.
- Performs preventive maintenance and makes routine repairs to electrical, plumbing, security systems, solar panel maintenance and construction with solester inverter experience.
- Performs rough and finish carpentry work and takes the lead on projects such as building and paneling walls and partitions.
- Maintains and repairs various equipment.
- High school graduate or equivalent.
- Prefer skills training in electrical, plumbing and other building trades areas.
- Extensive work experience with hemodialysis/maintenance is required.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
- Must have a valid driver's license.

(01) Water Treatment and Hemodialysis Technician
- The water treatment technician must be able to perform a number of tasks which may at first glance not appear difficult but require a high degree of knowledge and experience to properly operate and maintain the system. the ideal employee will possess:
- Operational knowledge of mechanical, electrical, plumbing systems
- Knowledge of the theory of fluid dynamics
- Understand the mathematical relationships and common formulas of basic water treatment and distribution systems.
- Know the specific operations of the water treatment and distribution systems unique to a dialysis unit.
- Be familiar with infection control of hemodialysis facilities.
- Be familiar with the safety and life safety policies.
- Pass the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency test for certified water treatment and distribution operators level II preferred.
- Understand the plumbing code and plumbing and hemodialysis techniques.
- Be able to demonstrate safe working techniques for working with electricity.
- Be able to demonstrate safe working techniques for working with pressure vessels for heomodialysis.
- Be able to demonstrate proper plumbing and hemodialysis techniques especially when working with pvc.
- Extensive experience of disposal of hazard waste per protocol.
- In service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
- Solar panel maintenance/construction with solester inverter experience.
- To accept and perform all other duties as may be assigned.

(02) Commercial Cleaner
- Operates various mechanized cleaning equipment, such as vacuums, polishers, buffers, etc.
- Maintain facility in a sanitary and infection-free condition through washing, cleaning and replacement of equipment and furnishings.
- Requires working in damp, dusty and dirty areas. Must clean up human waste and other body fluids, as required.
- Responsible for disposal of trash, waste, and other disposable materials.
- Must handle various cleaning solvents, chemicals, etc.
- Damp dust furniture , light fixtures, window, etc.
- Empty trash containers daily.
- Wet mop floors and bathrooms daily. Damp mop all corridor floors, lobby, and others daily.
- Report any needed repairs immediately.
- Check entire area for spills, water, etc, periodically, especially in patients' areas and lobby.
- Use safety precautions in all housekeeping services
- Must be able to work flexible hours.
- Must have own transportation.
- Is required to clean employee's house prior to and post occupancy.
- Is required to maintain and clean in an orderly manner the Business, Dr's., Accounting, Dietician, and Clinic Manager's Offices.

Interested applicants must submit an application or resume to St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan or for more information, please call 234-2902 and ask for Connie Aldan or Judy Arriola.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 279

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

HIV testing for all is long overdue

Early treatment for HIV is more successful than later treatment. But that's not the only reason to praise the recommendation of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force that doctors should test almost everyone ages 15 to 64 for the virus that causes AIDS.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 1.2 million people in the United States are infected with HIV but that close to 1 in 5 don't know it. Even before there was any effective treatment for HIV, large-scale testing as a preventive measure could have kept a tremendous amount of suffering and death at bay. It should have begun years ago. Decades ago.

Fear and prudishness got in the way. During the early years of AIDS, there was widespread ignorance about how easily the infection might be transmitted. A backlash against the groups most commonly associated with the disease—gay males, intravenous drug users and people with multiple sex partners—included attempts to discriminate against them, so that even gay rights groups sometimes fought against testing programs. Ryan White, a middle school student who was infected through a blood transfusion, had to fight in court for the right to attend school. Blood banks put off routine testing, concerned about possible blood shortages. In 1989, the topic of whether to offer screening to all pregnant women was highly controversial. Some pediatric AIDS specialists pointed out that with early information, they might be able to avoid transmission of the virus to the fetus. Others contended that there was too much risk of social isolation for women who tested positive.

Most of us know better now. And no one would be required to undergo the simple test. But if the task force's draft guidelines are adopted after the four-week comment period, most health insurance will cover the cost and most doctors will offer it to all their patients instead of hanging back lest they offend someone. Even people who don't engage in high-risk behaviors can be at risk. And if routine testing discovers an infection, not only can patients be treated earlier, but they can protect the health of others around them. The cost of the tests would most likely amount to a fraction of the cost of treating people whose infections might otherwise have been prevented.

The epidemic of AIDS has not been stamped out; what has changed is that it's no longer the diagnosis of near-certain doom that it was in the earliest years. Had society treated this simply as a public health issue from the start, had doctors tested more routinely early on, some of the disease's terrible spread could have been avoided. At least we can start now.

©2012 Los Angeles Times

PRESIDENT MORSI, WE'D JUST LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALL YOUR HELP ON THE GAZA SITUATION...
PLEASE, CALL ME 'PHARAOH'.
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD
KOEREDA

Cecilia Chang

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

She caught our attention because of her name and one of her addictions—casino visits.

We know of a namesake on Saipan who was accused by her employees of misusing their savings and salaries on the tables of the Tinian casino. She bragged of her long-term land lease with a prominent political figure and her Midas touch that turns coral into gold, but she had many of her workers sleep in tears for "lending" her their savings and payroll without any prospect of getting them back.

Cecilia Chang was dean of the Institute of Asian Studies at St. John's University in Queens with fundraising responsibilities. She was a flamboyant personality whose Taiwan family helped the university raise funds for the school's Sun Yat Sen Center. She secured a berth at the university's master's degree program as well. She stayed on after graduation not only to build the Institute of Asian Studies but also to raise funds for the university. She seemed to have been productive but her expenses often totaled $50K a month. In 2010, after an audit, she was charged with embezzling a million greenbacks.

First, the university. Run by the Vincentians (in honor of Vincent de Paul and known as the Congregation for the Mission—CM for short), Filipinos know St. John and the CM for its connection with Adamson U and Manila's Universidad de Sta. Isabel. Also, the CM runs DePaul U of Chicago, our hometown in the early '80s. We mention the religious order connection because we are familiar with some of the brothers' predilection for life beyond the traditional vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience.

Cecilia of New York was herself a character. The execution-style death of her first husband had her as the prime suspect but there were never enough evidence to charge her with the crime. She also admitted to marrying her second just so the gentleman would meet INS requirements.

It was her gambling that finally led her to cross the line between padding personal expense account on the university credit card (conveniently issued from Taipei) to criminal embezzlement. The university's scholarship program is a generous program in a CM university steeped on charity and Chang found herself a mission. She also did not hesitate to engage Chinese students on scholarship to serve her needs outside the guidelines of the Institute where they were assigned on a study-work program.

Facing a possible 25-year sentence, the prosecutor's office offered Chang a sweetheart deal of no more than five years in low-security confinement with possible parole in two. Monday before the presidential election, when three jurors called that they would be late as a consequence of inclement weather (a nor'easter after Sandy), and the judge willing to postpone Chang's trial, she opted to take the stand against her defense lawyers' advice and virtually pleaded guilty as charged. She revealed catering and covering for a reverend father who frequented casinos, and revealed spending liberally on one with a taste for custom-tailored suits. But it was mostly Cecilia and her caprice unburdening herself without *mea culpa.* Two days later, Cecilia Chang was found hanging in an apparent suicide.

Our Saipan Cecilia has not been charged in court. Her wards are too beholden to her wily and jaded legal machinations but those we knew squirreled enough assets to get out of her clutches. Taking her to court would not have helped their cause. Besides, Cecilia was always just one step away from penury.

We had the misfortune not only of knowing her, but also of a gentleman who ran a hotel by the park that got indicted for running an illegal casino on the alleged backing of one of our politicians. In fact, we even foolishly lent our name to his company as a faculty reference to a venture in bringing retirees and elderly visitors from Japan to Saipan!

Taiwan's Cecilia Chang did not just fall into a bad habit. Something about China's cultural dependence on good fortune as a determinant of fate and destiny *(Yuan fen,* in popular imagery), carried and nurtured by the KMT when they moved to Taiwan, has something to do with it.

Mahjong tables are a common recreational fare in China. Many illegal parlors are openly set up to accommodate players, including the gambling addicts. We know of one who gambles at her business (she shark loans) in the same way she shuffles tiles three nights in a row without sleep, and come off either as a happy camper when she wins, or a desperado when she loses. In either case, she is a wiry case.

Many on Saipan are fellow wayfarers, not just on the tables but in the cockfight arena as well. Still, many politicos think that chasing fate and fortune *ala* Las Vegas and Aomen (Macau) is the way the island economy ought to go. One only has to look closely at how Singapore's casinos are faring, and their impact on the local economy and citizenry, and one would understand why the level-headed voters on Saipan keeps refusing to ratify powerful legislative moves to legalize casinos on island.

Of course, Vegas' Adelson giving millions to Romney's failed presidential campaign has become as American as apple pie, so what's the big deal?

Bye, Cecilia!

Origin of single landownership

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

I was actually reviewing the history of the origin of Thanksgiving as a national holiday when I happened upon the genesis of individual landownership. It started with the Pilgrims in 1624. There were historical assertions that the famine that killed quite a good number of the Pilgrim's population was caused by the "lack of planning." Not quite! It was triggered by the regressive concept of communalism where everybody is owner of the land. Pilgrims worked through central planning where each worked for the good of everyone else. It failed miserably!

Said author Benjamin Powell, "Governor William Bradford, in his 1647 history, *Of Plymouth Plantation*, wrote that this system (communalism or collective landownership) "was found to breed much confusion and discontent and retard much employment that would have been to their benefit and comfort." Because of the poor incentives, little food was produced.

"Faced with potential starvation in the spring of 1623, the colony decided to implement a new economic system. Every family was assigned a private parcel of land. They could then keep all they grew for themselves, but now they alone were responsible for feeding themselves. While not a complete private property system, the move away from communal ownership had dramatic results.

New land system successful

"This change, Bradford wrote, "had very good success, for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been." Giving people economic incentives changed their behavior. Once the new system of property rights was in place, "the women now went willingly into the field, and took their little ones with them to set corn; which before would allege weakness and inability."

"Once the Pilgrims in the Plymouth Plantation abandoned their communal economic system and adopted one with greater individual property rights, they never again faced the starvation and food shortages of the first three years. It was only after allowing greater property rights that they could feast without worrying that famine was just around the corner.

"We are direct beneficiaries of the economics lesson the pilgrims learned in 1623. Today we have a much better developed and well-defined set of property rights. Our economic system offers incentives for us—in the form of prices and profits—to coordinate our individual behavior for the mutual benefit of all; even those we may not personally know."

Other than a slowly fading matrilineal system, it's basically individual after the Spaniards changed the land tenure system here, allowing the lowest caste of Chamorros to own land too. This encouraged stronger productivity among farmers who once had to till the soil that belonged to the *Matua* or *Acha'ot*. Imagine the joy of working on our own land and knowing that you can keep all that you've earned.

It would be well and good to identify that part of history and turn it into an indigenous holiday, for it was the time in our developmental history that individual landownership was granted the rest of the indigenous population. It fostered a sense of justice and equality and real opportunities to work up personal industry and productivity individually as a community. We should be thankful to Spain for the change she imposed, permanently destroying a discriminatory land tenure system. I am sure that day started with the bright break of dawn for one and all.

■■■

Fate of country

As an ardent conservative, I'm not particularly enamored by the redistributionist policy of the Obama administration. I fear the day when our country would have more receivers from entitlement benefits than there are givers to pay for them.

It makes it imperative that we revisit the principles that made our country a powerful and prosperous nation over the last 200-plus years. However the challenges ahead, we must step up to the plate and ensure that our great country would be standing proud for our children and grandchildren as they build their tomorrows. We can't let ill-defined radical socialistic agenda ruin what our founding fathers have set in first principles that have proven distinctly successful throughout history.

A professor who has lectured in over 180 campuses across the country in the last 20 years offered a snapshot of the country's most basic problem. It is character and values. Said he, "Of course government is too big. But how did it get this way? With the majority of the country now on one kind of government program or another, does anybody really think we can change this without talking about the human attitudes and values that produced it?

"Democrats have a much easier problem than Republicans. They are not trying to change America. The trends and attitudes that got the whole country on welfare, that produced the moral relativism that is destroying our families and character, is the platform of the Democratic Party.

"Democrat politicians just have one job. Deny the patient is sick.

"Republicans, if they are going to be a real opposition party, have a much tougher job. With all the talk about this last election being driven by demographics and turnout, the most basic point is the GOP and its candidate did not step up as a serious, principled opposition party."

■■■

Obama was re-elected for a second term, a problematic term that is not Sunday picnic or walk in the park. His chief of staff is leaving and the tenor of his administration is contingent upon the person he selects as the replacement. It could go Obamacare, a negotiated deal on fiscal cliff or emphasis on foreign policy.

Clinging to hope in the Mideast

By PETER GOLDMARK
Newsday

Peter Goldmark, a former budget director of New York State, is a member of the State Budget Crisis Task Force. He wrote this for Newsday.

Who can watch what has been going on in Gaza and not weep in pain?

Most of us, like me, have no special knowledge of the area, its history, the tangled destinies of the people who live there. But we have seen over the years that leaders who took big risks for peace were cut down by their fellow countrymen—Anwar Sadat in 1981 and Yitzhak Rabin in 1995. The untamed intensity of fear and hatred seems to overwhelm the occasional seeds of hope that are sown.

One people feel surrounded and threatened with extinction—and they probably are. The other people feel their land has been occupied, their homes and their future prospects stolen—and they probably have been. Because each side feels it has its back to the wall (or the sea), the ominous predictions about the actions of the other side offered by the hawks are often fulfilled.

There have been other burning enmities in our time. Often they have involved people who knew each other well and shared blood and history. Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland come to mind. They fought and hated till they exhausted themselves and had no reserves of energy left to fuel their hatred. North and South Korea are still at each other's throats today, sharing the same sick rhythms and refrains of self-destructive, reciprocal antagonism seen in Israel and Gaza, though without an apparent religious dimension.

As Israelis and Palestinians fire rockets, bullets and invective at each other, outsiders line up to support one side or the other. Some pour rhetorical gasoline on the fire, others provide arms. And as on a parched countryside bristling with tinder, fires spring up in several places at once: A bloody civil war has been raging in Syria; unrest in many of the Gulf emirates continues; Iran continues its two-decade-long drive to produce nuclear weapons, and neighbors such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt consider doing the same.

And through this burning geography move ships carrying a large portion of the oil on which the global economy depends.

A French movie released earlier this year is now available in the United States. "The Other Son," by filmmaker Lorraine Levy, is about an Israeli family and a Palestinian family who discover that their sons were accidentally switched at birth in the hospital. In a world of violence and mistrust, two families struggle to accept the fact that a child they love "belongs" to a people they hate.

The most disturbing thing about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is that the grievances and fears are so terribly real. You cannot say it is all based on misunderstandings or on wounds that do not cause great and continuing suffering and could not justify life-threatening response.

Does this mean, then, that as part of the human adventure there are, brutally, moments and places where deep, unreasoning anger and unforgiving hate are woven so deeply into the fabric of a given region that nothing can stop them running their course?

Is it possible that there is no alternative to letting them burn themselves out, like a fire that consumes everything around it and dies only when everything is destroyed and there is nothing left to burn?

Any truce is a miracle. It is a season for giving thanks—so let us give thanks for the truce, no matter how fragile or temporary.

'Bomb Shelter Barry' looks saner after crisis

By LANE FILLER
Newsday

Lane Filler is a member of the Newsday *editorial board. His email address is lane.filler@newsday.com.*

It's not as if my family went into Superstorm Sandy totally unprepared.

We bought 6 gallons of milk, because there's nothing better than a powerless fridge full of warm, delicious milk after a week or so. We purchased plenty of bread, which, although no one was willing to eat it after day two, could have eventually proved useful: I'm pretty sure you can kill or stun a looter with an 11-day-old baguette by swinging it like a Louisville Slugger.

We even made sure we had plenty of candles, so we would be able to see the boredom and hatred on each others' faces clearly, night after night.

We just didn't, as it turned out, buy any of the things that actually could have helped us with this particular emergency. No generator, no extra gasoline, and not nearly enough of the really good Halloween candy.

Honestly, my family had a pretty easy storm. We were only without power for four days, thanks to living on a main road, in an apartment complex, next to a large hospital. There aren't many advantages to living on a main road, in an apartment complex, next to a large hospital: Quick power reconnection after storms and quick treatment after domestic accidents may be the only ones.

But throughout the storm and in the weeks since, I found myself struggling with a quandary that's been bugging me since 1999, and good old Y2K.

On one end of the spectrum, you've got the guy who has dedicated his life and his savings to preparing for the post-disaster society. He's got guns, bullets, a concrete fortress installed under the vegetable garden, and 14,000 cans of food. He's got water tanks, gasoline reserves and generators. And if he set up his stash on the eve of the year 2000, he has DVD editions of "The Sixth Sense" and "Fight Club" to keep the family entertained post-apocalypse.

On the other end of the scale, you've got the family whose only emergency preparations are seven packs of Marlboros, a case of Fresca and the number "911" written on a Post-it note stuck to the freezer.

And we decide which of those guys is sane and which of them is crazy based on the uncontrollable occurrences, like weather, that actually happen to happen.

We laughed at the Y2K loonies because society didn't disintegrate into madness on Jan. 1, 2000. If the computers had gone kerflooey, the neighbor I called "Bomb Shelter Barry" through the early part of this millennium would instead have been known as "Brilliant Barry," and my wife probably would have sold me into his slave army in exchange for three cans of fancy cling peaches.

In a world of unlimited resources, the bomb shelter guys would be right. If we live long enough, something terrible will happen, and it's better to be prepared for it than not. There's no way to get prepared once the horrible thing happens, or even when it's on the way. By then the gas, generators, batteries and "Fight Club" DVDs are all gone.

But we do not live in a world of unlimited resources.

So generators that cost $5,000 and hundreds of gallons of water and gasoline and piles of unspoilable food that must be stored have to be balanced against all the other things we want. Stuff like food we can actually eat today, and college tuition, and bicycles and cars and clothing and circus tickets.

If it were easy to buy survivalist gear when we need it most, we'd own a lot more of it. But it's mostly only possible to purchase such stuff once the sting of unpreparedness has worn off. And the need doesn't feel nearly as pressing when the heat is working, and the ice cream is staying frozen.

Generators? We don't need no stinkin' generators.

At least not today.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

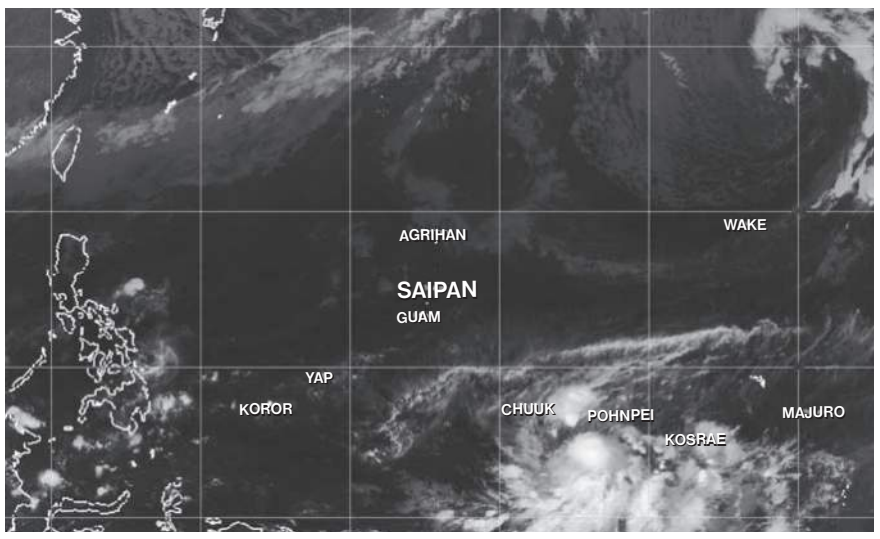
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲66	▼62
Beijing	Sunny	▲40	▼23
Hong Kong	Showers	▲70	▼68
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼67
London	Partly Cloudy	▲45	▼36
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲66	▼54
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲94	▼57
Miami	Showers	▲80	▼65
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲41	▼29
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼48
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲44	▼41
Pusan	Cloudy	▲50	▼37
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲59	▼50
Salem	Showers	▲51	▼47
San Francisco	Rain	▲62	▼57
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲37	▼28
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼43
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲48	▼32

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Bopha (26W) is centered 340 miles southeast of Chuuk at 4N156E and is moving west northwest with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found in spiral bands out to 300 miles from the center including Pohnpei but southeast of Chuuk. For more information on Tropical Storm Bopha, refer to bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Low-level convergence east of Tropical Storm Bopha is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 6N from 162E to 170E including Kosrae. A cold front curves southwestward from north of 25N138E to west of 21N130E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located north of the front. Another cold front curves west-southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N176E to 17N166E. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are present along and up to 125 miles northwest of the front north of 20N and along and behind a surface trough east of the front between 21N and 23N from 175E to 176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:26 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
8:23 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:46 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
6:34 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Sunday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:29 PM	5:51 AM
Thursday	6:16 PM	6:41 AM
Friday	7:05 PM	7:29 AM
Saturday	7:55 PM	8:16 AM
Sunday	8:45 PM	9:02 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOV. 21, 2012

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-PUSAN (BUS)			
0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7
0Z608	3:30am	6:40am	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:10am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU7108	2:50am	5:55am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)			
VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1
0Z606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/749	3:20pm	11:20pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN			
0Z607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6
0Z607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
0Z605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU7107	6:30pm	1:50am+1	2, 4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN			
VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA702/605	12:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z724/605	1:50pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5073	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

US Navy partners with traditional canoe carvers in Yap

High tech met traditional tech when a group of U.S. Navy Seabees pitched in to help the Waa'gey traditional canoe project in Yap, Federated States of Micronesia.

The sailors, stationed on Yap as part of a construction civic action detail, used their powerful lifting equipment and wide-bodied truck to ferry a massive log to the traditional boat house where it will take shape as a sailing canoe.

Over the course of several weeks, master carvers and youth volunteers with the Waa'gey program had fallen, and carved out, a log in the jungles of Yap. It will serve as the hull for a traditional Carolinian sailing canoe. The dugout log—still weighing hundreds of pounds and measuring more than 20 feet long—was pulled up a trail from the depths of the jungle to a dirt road by 20 boys using a rope. The next leg of the trip was the 15-mile road into Colonia. That's where the Waa'gey's boathouse sits at the edge of the lagoon. The journey seemed an insurmountable obstacle.

Navy Seabees are presented with gifts after helping out with the Waa'gey traditional canoe project in Yap, Micronesia.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Waagey canoe carvers in Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A group of U.S. Navy Seabees use their powerful lifting equipment and wide-bodied truck to ferry a massive log to the traditional boat house where it will take shape as a sailing canoe.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Thankfully, the U.S. Navy was ready to help," explained Larry Raigetal of Waa'gey. "They accomplished in a few minutes a lifting feat that would have taken us months by hand. It was a great chance for us to share information and compare notes on our respective building techniques and technologies."

The U.S. sailors raised the hull onto a truck, drove it into Colonia, and then delivered it to the boathouse. Young men and women presented the sailors with floral wreaths and gifts of local foods to convey their gratitude.

Waa'gey is a community-based organization. It aims to uses traditional skills to confront the social, economic, and environmental challenges faced by the people of Micronesia's most remote outer islands.

Waa'gey receives financial and material support from Habele, a U.S.-based charity, which was holding a "listening tour" meeting at the boathouse when the log arrived on the Navy's truck. Also present for the delivery was Nils Winkler, CEO of Yapital, a European-based electronic payments company. Yapital had donated chainsaws, adze blades, and fuel for the Canoe Project through its ongoing partnership with Habele.

The U.S. Navy Seabee civic action team is working on Yap to fabricate schools and hospitals, continuing a decades-long tradition of American government's investment in core infrastructure for the people of Micronesia. ***(PR)***

DEQ brigade sets monthly cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Paupau Beach this Saturday, Dec. 1, 2012, at 8 am.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet the DEQ representatives on Saturday at the Paupau Beach parking lot at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt.

Last month's San Antonio Beach to Sugar Dock cleanup was successful with over 100 volunteers participating. Thanks to Hopwood MyWave Club, Saipan Southern High School, CUC and other volunteers, over 1,000 lbs of trash was removed from the beaches and properly disposed off. DEQ also thanks D&Q for the refreshment drinks they provided the volunteers.

The DEQ is looking forward to a repeat success this Saturday, so join DEQ's monthly cleanup brigade and "Pick It Up!" Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(DEQ)***

USCIS to host national Spanish-language engagement

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will host a free information session of our "Enlace Público" series on Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012, from 7:3pm to 9pm (EST). This national session will be exclusively in Spanish. The public is welcome to participate via Internet or a toll-free telephone.

To participate via teleconference, call 1-888-989-4980 (Password: Enlace). For live Web stream, go to www.uscis.gov/live/enlace.

The "Enlace Público" engagements provide agency updates, help customers understand how best to navigate through the immigration experience, and includes live question-and-answer sessions with USCIS officials. USCIS will also take questions in advance of the engagement via Twitter @USCIS_es or during the event via email at OPE-Live@uscis.dhs.gov. For more information, visit www.uscis.gov/enlace or view the event fliers, available in English and Spanish. ***(USCIS)***

SPC assists post-drought Tuvalu with food security

NOUMEA, New Caledonia— A senior government official from Tuvalu has called for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's continued assistance with enhancing food security in the low-lying atoll nation, one of the worst affected by the impacts of climate change in the region.

In 2011, Tuvalu was faced with a drought that had a severe impact on the task of growing fruit and vegetables, which was already difficult on some of the islands due to saltwater intrusion.

Speaking at the annual meeting of SPC's governing body at the organization's headquarters in Noumea two weeks ago, Temate Melitiana, a senior official in the Tuvalu Prime Minister's Office said, "Tuvalu values SPC's role and assistance in many areas where SPC has a comparative advantage."

Tuvalu and other Pacific Island countries and territories are benefitting from SPC's Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees, which is providing them with planting material from its "climate ready" collection, that is, plants that show tolerance to drought, salt and water-logging.

This year, the center has distributed much-needed planting material for banana, cassava, swamp taro, sweet potato, taro and yam to 18 PICTs from the "climate ready" collection.

A recently conducted independent expert review of the organization commended the center's work, which all of SPC's 22 PICTs, especially atoll countries, benefit from.

The 42nd Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations, the annual meeting of SPC's governing body, ran until Nov. 16, 2012. It brought together government representatives from SPC's 26 member states, and observers from regional and international agencies. ***(SPC)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday to our most precious princess, Nikki Marie Camacho Santos-Roligat! May the Lord bless you with many more! We love you. Greetings come from Mom Pauline, Dad Jeff, and your WIC *familia*.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Despite talk of compromise, fiscal deal elusive

WASHINGTON (AP)—Talk of compromise on a broad budget deal greeted returning lawmakers Monday, but agreement still seemed distant as the White House and congressional Republicans ceded little ground on a key sticking point: whether to raise revenue through higher tax rates or by limiting tax breaks and deductions.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, pressed his case for revenue derived by reducing tax loopholes rather than raising tax rates on wealthy taxpayers, as President Barack Obama insists.

Boehner, voicing the Republican stance, said: "The American people support an approach that involves both major spending cuts and additional revenue via tax reform with lower tax rates."

At the White House, Obama spokesman Jay Carney reiterated the president's pledge not to sign legislation that extends current tax rates to the top 2 percent of income earners. "That is a firm position," Carney said.

Congress and Obama have until the end of the year to avoid across-the-board tax increases that would do away with rates set during the administration of President George W. Bush and restore higher tax rates in place during President Bill Clinton's administration when the economy was robust and the federal government had a budget surplus.

White House and congressional leadership aides said Obama spoke separately with House Speaker John Boehner and Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid over the weekend. The aides would not reveal details of the conversations. Obama last met with the bipartisan congressional leadership to discuss the fiscal cliff on Nov. 16. No new meetings have been announced.

Boehner and other GOP leaders planned to meet Wednesday with members of a bipartisan coalition of former members of Congress and business leaders that has advocated cuts in spending in major health care programs as well as changes in the tax code to raise more money but also to lower rates.

Obama met with some members of that same coalition earlier this month. Top officials from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and from the Business Roundtable met with senior White House aides on Monday.

In addition to looming tax hikes, the new year could also result in steep spending cuts in defense and domestic programs. Lawmakers and the White House fear that such a combined "fiscal cliff" would undercut the military and set back an economic recovery. Republicans say that while they are open to revenue increases, Obama also has to agree to reductions in entitlement spending, particularly in massive health care programs such as Medicare and Medicaid.

Carney on Monday said Obama was open to changes in those programs, but said Obama does not want to address Social Security as part of the fiscal cliff discussions.

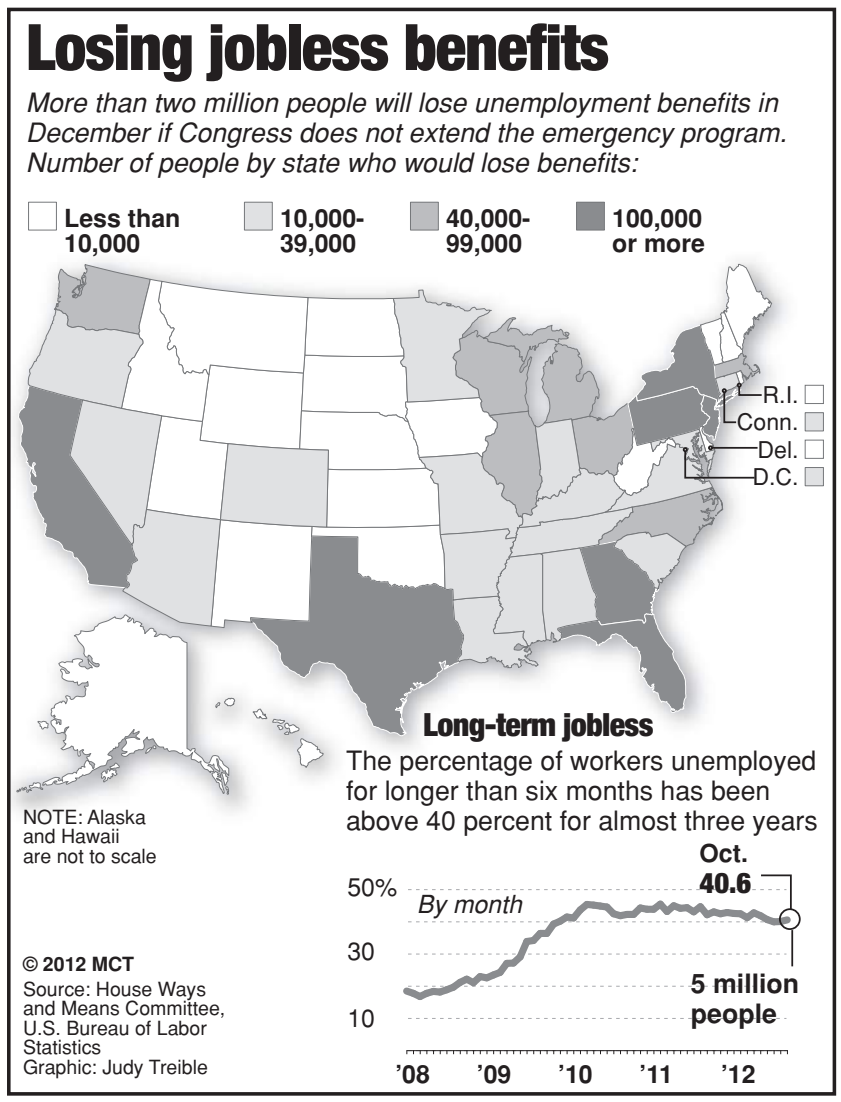
"The president has long made clear that he is open to discussions about strengthening Social Security as part of a separate track," Carney said, adding that Social Security is not contributing to the deficit.

Looking to buttress their case on taxes, White House economists warned Monday that the uncertainty of a potential hike in taxes next year for middle class taxpayers could hurt consumer confidence during the crucial holiday shopping season.

In a new report, President Barack Obama's National Economic Council and his Council of Economic Advisers said that if lawmakers don't halt the automatic increase in taxes for households earning less than $250,000, consumers might even curtail their shopping during the current holiday season.

Alan Krueger, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, said it was important for Congress to extend the current rates for middle class taxpayers "without delay, without drama" to avoid a drop in consumer confidence.

"As we approach the holiday season, which accounts for close to one-fifth of industry sales, retailers can't afford the threat of tax increases on middle-class families," the report said.



Cyber Monday likely to be busiest online sales day

NEW YORK (AP)—Americans clicked away on their computers and smartphones for deals on Cyber Monday, which is expected to be the biggest online shopping day in history.

Shoppers are expected to spend $1.5 billion on Cyber Monday, up 20 percent from last year, according to research firm comScore. That would not only make it the biggest online shopping day of the year, but the biggest since comScore started tracking shoppers' online buying habits in 2001.

Online shopping was up 26.6 percent on Cyber Monday compared with the same time period a year ago, according to figures released Monday evening by IBM Benchmark, which tracks online sales. Sales from mobile devices, which include tablets, rose 10.2 percent. The group does not track dollar amount sales.

The strong start to Cyber Monday, a term coined in 2005 by a shopping trade group that noticed people were doing a lot of shopping on their work computers on the Monday following Thanksgiving, comes after overall online sales rose significantly during the four-day holiday shopping weekend that began on Thanksgiving.

"Online's piece of the holiday pie is growing every day, and all the key dates are growing with it," said Forrester Research analyst Sucharita Mulpuru. "The Web is becoming a more significant part of the traditional brick-and-mortar holiday shopping season."

It's the latest sign that Americans are becoming addicted to the convenience of the Web. With the growth in smartphones and tablet computers, shoppers can buy what they want, whenever they want, wherever they want. As a result, retailers have ramped up the deals they're offering on their websites during the holiday shopping season, a time when stores can make up to 40 percent of their annual revenue.

Euro officials reach deal to reduce Greek debt

BRUSSELS (AP)—A European Union official has told The Associated Press Tuesday that a deal has been reached that would pave the way for Greece to receive the next installment of its much-needed bailout loans. Part of the agreement is that the target for Greece's debt levels—one of the conditions of the deal going ahead—would reach 124 percent of its gross domestic product by 2020. The original goal had been 120 percent of GDP.

Mario Draghi, President of the European Central Bank, welcomed the agreement.

"It will certainly reduce the uncertainty and strengthen confidence in Europe and in Greece," Draghi said.

This was the third time in the last two weeks that finance ministers from the 17 European Union countries that use the euro had tried to hammer out a deal on the next installment of bailout money for struggling Greece.

The installment, desperately needed by Greece, will total some (EURO)44 billion ($57 billion).

Greece, which is heavily in debt, is predicted to enter its sixth year of recession shortly, and there had been fears that it might be forced to drop out of the eurozone, destabilizing other countries in the process.

The so-called troika of the European Central Bank, IMF and the European Commission, which is the 27-country EU's executive arm, have twice agreed to bail out Greece, pledging a total of (EURO)240 billion in rescue loans—of which the country has received about (EURO)150 billion so far. In return for its bailout loans, Greece has had to impose several rounds of austerity measures and submit its economy to scrutiny.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Schapiro's SEC successor likely to follow her lead

WASHINGTON (AP)—The leadership of the Securities and Exchange Commission will change next month. Its approach to regulation probably won't. Mary Schapiro will step down as chairwoman after a tumultuous tenure in which she helped lead the government's regulatory response to the 2008 financial crisis. Replacing her will be Elisse Walter, one of five SEC commissioners, whose career path has tracked Schapiro's for nearly three decades. Walter has served under Schapiro at both the SEC and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, the securities industry's self-policing organization. Both women worked at the SEC in the 1980s. Walter was also general counsel of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission when Schapiro led that agency in the mid-1990s. She's expected to follow the approach Schapiro took at the SEC over nearly four years.

Bailed-out Portugal set to approve stiff tax hikes

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—Portuguese lawmakers are poised to authorize an unprecedented set of tax increases despite concerns that the latest austerity package will deepen the bailed-out country's recession. Though the center-right coalition government has enough votes to pass the package Tuesday, the debate is likely to be heated as lawmakers argue over what is the best way out of the country's debt crisis. Opposition parties, trade unions and business leaders complain the budget doesn't do enough to revive an economy that's headed into a third straight year of recession. The deficit-reduction measures will cost most workers and pensioners the equivalent of at least a month's income next year.

Nintendo says more than 400,000 Wii Us sold in US

NEW YORK (AP)—Nintendo has sold more than 400,000 of its new video game console, the Wii U, in its first week on sale in the U.S., the company said Monday. The Wii U launched on Nov. 18 in the U.S. at a starting price of $300. Nintendo said the sales figure, based on internal estimates, is through Saturday, or seven days later. The Wii U is the first major game console to launch in six years. It comes with a new touch-screen controller that promises to change how people play games by offering different people in the same room a different experience, depending on the controller used.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,967.37	1,406.29	2,976.78
-42.31	-2.86	+9.93
-0.33%	-0.20%	+0.33%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9567	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7501	Philippine Peso	41.1353
British Pound	0.6242	Indian Rupee	55.5584	Singapore Dollar	1.2227
Canadian Dollar	0.9934	Indonesian Rupiah	9,671.1	South Korean Won	1,093.6
Chinese Yuan	6.2783	Japanese Yen	82.2368	Swiss Franc	0.9290
Euro	0.7714	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0764	Taiwan Dollar	29.1375
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2152	Thailand Baht	30.7314

Nation

Cuomo: Sandy cost NY, NYC $32B in damage and loss

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Top political leaders in New York put their heads together Monday on big requests for federal disaster aid as Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that Superstorm Sandy ran up a bill of $32 billion in the state and the nation's largest city.

The cost does not include more than $32 billion for repairs and restoration and an additional accounting of over $9 billion to head off damage in the next disastrous storm, including steps to protect the power grid and cellphone network.

"It's common sense; it's intelligent," Cuomo said. "Why don't you spend some money now to save money in the future? And that's what prevention and mitigation is."

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg had announced earlier in the day that Sandy caused $19 billion in losses in New York City—part of the $30 billion estimate Cuomo used.

New York taxpayers, Cuomo said, can't foot the bill.

"It would incapacitate the state. ... Tax increases are always a last, last, last resort."

Cuomo met with New York's congressional delegation to discuss the new figures and present "less than a wish list." The delegation, Cuomo and Bloomberg will now draw up a request for federal disaster aid.

AP
This Oct. 30, 2012, photo provided by New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) shows damage to the South Ferry station of the No. 1 subway line, in lower Manhattan, after Superstorm Sandy passed through New York.

States typically get 75 percent reimbursement for the cost of governments to restore mass transit and other services after a disaster. The most basic recovery costs for roads, water systems, schools, parks, individual assistance and more total $15 billion in New York City; $7 billion for state agencies; $6.6 billion in Nassau County and $1.7 billion in Suffolk County, both on suburban Long Island; and $527 million in Westchester County and $143 million in Rockland County, both north of New York City, according to a state document used in the private briefing of the delegation and obtained by The Associated Press.

Hard times were already facing the state and city governments that were staring at deficits of more than $1 billion before Sandy hit in late October. State tax receipts have also missed projections, showing a continued slow recovery from a recession that could hit taxpayers in the governments' budgets this spring. And there's the looming fiscal cliff, the combination of expiring federal tax cuts and major spending cuts that could rattle the economy.

"Make no mistake, this will not be an easy task, particularly given the impending fiscal cliff, and a Congress that has been much less friendly to disaster relief than in the past," Schumer said. "We will work with the (Obama) administration on supplemental legislation, to be introduced in the upcoming December session of Congress, that will set us on the road to meeting New York's needs. This will be an effort that lasts not weeks, but many months, and we will not rest until the federal response meets New York's deep and extensive needs."

Rep. Peter King, a Long Island Republican who, like Schumer, is a powerful member of his chamber, said he is seeking cooperation from House leaders to find enough disaster aid.

"It really is survival," King said. "This is an emergency. This should be separate of all the debate about the fiscal cliff and everything else."

The Cuomo administration has gained the public support of President Barack Obama and FEMA in New York's proposal for full reimbursement for storm damage, but state officials have privately worried about how much the state can get now.

In the city, Bloomberg is asking federal lawmakers to put up nearly $10 billion to reimburse government agencies and private businesses. That would be additional funding on an expedited basis over the $5.4 billion in standard disaster aid that the city projects it will receive from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

That FEMA money and private insurance won't cover all the public and private expenses from the storm, which included damaged streets and restaurants closed because of flooding, Bloomberg said.

"While the impact of the storm will be felt for some time and the challenges are great, I am confident that the city will rebound and emerge stronger than ever," Bloomberg wrote to the congressional delegation.

Reinsurance company Swiss Re showed the extent of private sector pain. It estimates that claims stemming from Sandy will cost the company about $900 million and that total losses from insured damage will be between $20 billion and $25 billion.

Reinsurance firms provide coverage to insurance companies for great losses stemming from events like natural disasters.

Some GOP lawmakers now flout anti-tax man Norquist

WASHINGTON (AP)—For decades, conservative lobbyist Grover Norquist vowed to drive Republicans out of office if they didn't pledge to oppose tax increases. Many lawmakers signed on.

But now, several senior Republicans are breaking ranks, willing to consider raising more money through taxes as part of a deal with Democrats to avoid a catastrophic budget meltdown.

Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker says the only pledge he will keep is his oath of office. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor says no one in his home state of Virginia is talking about what leaders in Washington refer to simply as "The Pledge," a Norquist invention that dates to 1986. Georgia Sen. Saxby Chambliss says he cares more about his country than sticking to Norquist's pledge.

Norquist

It's quite an about-face for senior members of a party that long has stood firmly against almost any notion of tax increases. And while GOP leaders insist they still don't want to see taxes go up, the reality of a nation in a debt crisis is forcing some to moderate their opposition to any movement on how much Americans pay to fund their government. Republican legislators and Democratic President Barack Obama's White House are haggling vigorously as they look for ways to reach agreement on detailed tax adjustments and spending cuts before automatic, blunt-force changes occur at the new year.

"Oh, I signed it," Sen. Jeff Sessions said on Fox News about Norquist's pledge. "But we've got to deal with the crisis we face. We've got to deal with the political reality of the president's victory."

The naysaying about the pledge is raising the question of whether Norquist—a little-known Republican outside of Washington—is losing his position of power within the GOP. It's a notion that he calls ridiculous.

"Nobody's turning on me," Norquist said Monday.

But he indicated he would turn on lawmakers who defy him, starting with Corker, who Monday published an opinion piece in The Washington Post outlining an alternative to the budget breakdown that includes more revenue.

"Corker was elected to the Senate because he took the pledge," Norquist said on Fox News. "He would not be a senator today if he hadn't made that commitment. If he breaks it, he's going to have to have a conversation with the people of Tennessee about his keeping his word. And the same thing with other people who are elected because they made that written commitment to the people of their state."

N. California community mourns family swept to sea

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Howard Kuljian and his family were out for a walk on a damp, overcast morning at Big Lagoon beach, playing fetch with their dog as 10-foot surf churned the water just feet away like a washing machine.

Signs near the beach warned of "sneaker waves," the kind that suddenly roar ashore.

Kuljian tossed a stick that took their dog down to the water's edge and in an instant, authorities said, a wave swallowed it, setting off a nightmarish scramble early Saturday.

"Everything kind of snowballed from there," Coast Guard Lt. Bernie Garrigan said.

Kuljian's 16-year-old son ran to save the dog and struggled as he was captured by the surging surf. Kuljian followed, and later his wife. On shore, his 18-year-old daughter and his son's girlfriend could only watch.

Both parents' bodies were later recovered, but the boy—presumed dead—is still missing.

The dog, identified by the boy's friend as "Fran," eventually made it back to shore.

The news of the tragedy—coming during the long holiday weekend—shocked many in their hometown of Arcata, on the rough Northern California coastline about 280 miles north of San Francisco.

Students at Arcata High School, which Kuljian's son Gregory attended, wore green in his memory.

By late Monday afternoon, more than 1,300 people "liked" a Facebook page set up by the teenager's friends called "Wear Green for Geddie"—using his nickname. Dozens tweeted tributes with the hashtag (hash) WearGreenGorGeddie.

"I will always remember him no matter how long," Emmalaya Owen wrote on the Facebook page. "Especially how he was such an upbeat happy person or how he tried to put up `Be Happy' propaganda posters he drew around school."

Others were trying to come to terms with the deaths. His sister, Olivia, graduated from the school last year.

"He was just a friendly guy, and everyone who knew him liked him, and his family was very close," said Day Robins, a high school senior. She said Gregory and his family were active in school athletics and sailing.

Big Lagoon beach, in Humboldt Lagoons State Park, is a short drive from Arcata. Signs are posted near the parking lot warning beachgoers not to turn their back to the surf and to pay special attention to "sneaker waves," Garrigan said.

"Because the beach is designed that way, when that 10-foot wall breaks, it surges up on the beach and surges back really fast," he said. "It's like a cyclical washing machine."

As the family walked along the beach, Howard Kuljian threw the stick and the dog gave chase, said Dana Jones, a state parks district superintendent.

ACROSS THE NATION

Transplant doc, Nobel winner Murray dies in Boston

BOSTON (AP)—Dr. Joseph E. Murray, who performed the world's first successful kidney transplant and won a Nobel Prize for his pioneering work, has died at age 93. Murray suffered a stroke at his suburban Boston home on Thanksgiving and died at Brigham and Women's Hospital on Monday, hospital spokesman Tom Langford said. Since the first kidney transplants on identical twins, hundreds of thousands of transplants on a variety of organs have been performed worldwide. Murray shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1990 with Dr. E. Donnall Thomas, who won for his work in bone marrow transplants. "Kidney transplants seem so routine now," Murray told The New York Times after he won the Nobel. "But the first one was like Lindbergh's flight across the ocean."

Moon rocks from Apollo 11 landing found in Minn.

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Houston, we have moon rocks. The Minnesota National Guard said Monday it found a few small fragments of the moon's surface in storage in a state building in St. Paul. They'll be turned over to the state Historical Society on Wednesday. The moon rocks came from the Apollo 11 moon landing in 1969, when astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to set foot on the moon. Some of the rocks, pebbles and dirt they collected have gone missing after U.S. states and territories and 135 countries each got tiny samples encased in plastic. Authentic moon rocks are considered national treasures and can't legally be sold in the U.S. Minnesota's moon rocks disappeared sometime after then-President Richard Nixon gave them to the state, along with a state flag that was carried on the mission.

Asia

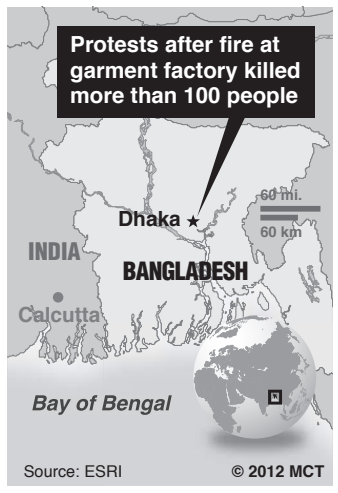
Wal-Mart distances itself from fire in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—The garment factory in Bangladesh where a weekend fire killed at least 112 people had been making clothes for Wal-Mart without the giant U.S. retailer's knowledge, Wal-Mart said Monday.

In a statement, Wal-Mart said that the Tazreen Fashions Ltd. factory was no longer authorized to produce merchandise for Wal-Mart, but that a supplier subcontracted work to it "in direct violation of our policies."

"Today, we have terminated the relationship with that supplier," America's biggest retailer said. "The fact that this occurred is extremely troubling to us, and we will continue to work across the apparel industry to improve fire safety education and training in Bangladesh."

The blaze on Saturday was one of the deadliest fires of its kind in Bangladesh and threw a spotlight on the way the country's garment factories often ignore safety in the rush to supply major retailers in the U.S. and Europe. More than 200 people have died over the past six years in garment factory fires in Bangladesh, including a blaze that killed 63 in 2006.



Survivors of the latest tragedy said that an exit door was locked, that fire extinguishers didn't work and apparently were there just to impress inspectors, and that when the fire alarm went off, workers were told by their bosses to go back to their sewing machines. Victims were trapped or jumped to their deaths from the eight-story building, which had no emergency exits.

On Monday, about 15,000 Bangladeshi workers protested blocks from the gutted building in the Dhaka suburb of Savar, demanding justice for the victims and improved safety. Some 200 factories were closed for the day after the protest erupted. Demonstrators blocked a major highway, threw stones at factories and smashed vehicles.

Labor leaders hope outrage over the latest disaster will prompt change. Tahmina Rahman, general secretary of the Bangladesh Garment Workers Federation, said government needs to do more to punish factories for safety lapses.

Recent garment factory fires in Bangladesh

By The Associated Press

More than 315 people have died in fires in Bangladesh garment factories since 2006. The country has about 4,000 garment factories and earns about $20 billion a year from exports of garment products, mainly to the U.S. and Europe.

- At least 112 people die in a fire Saturday at a garment factory just outside Dhaka, the capital. Survivors say many were killed because of a lack of safety measures in the eight-story factory, which employed about 1,700 people.
- A fire in December 2010 at a 10-story factory in Ashulia, outside Dhaka, kills 29 workers.
- In February 2010, a sweater factory in Gazipur outside Dhaka is engulfed by a fire, leaving at least 28 dead.
- In 2006, a fire races through a garment factory in Narayanganj near the capital, killing 23.
- Another fire in 2006 kills 63 workers at a garment factory in southeastern Chittagong city.
- More than 60 workers have died in a number of smaller fires over the past six years.

Tourists trickle into violence-hit western Myanmar

MRAUK-U, Myanmar (AP)—It was dusk in a corner of Myanmar recently shaken by some of the bloodiest sectarian violence in a generation, and a dozen Canadian tourists climbed to the top of a grassy hill, cameras ready to capture the sweeping view.

Moss-covered pagodas rose from foggy hilltops all along the horizon, their bell-shaped silhouettes dark against the blue sky. Birds flitted through lush treetops. A small throng of children played on a dirt road nearby.

From here, it was hard to tell anything was wrong.

Just six miles (10 kilometers) to the south, though, security forces have blocked roads to a village that was reportedly overrun last month by a frenzied mob of Rakhine Buddhists armed with swords and spears who beheaded Muslim civilians and slaughtered women and children.

Across western Myanmar's Rakhine state, the United Nations is distributing emergency supplies of food and shelter to terrified refugees who have fled burning homes. A nighttime curfew is in force in several townships, including Mrauk-U.

But none of that has kept a small but steady trickle of determined tourists from traveling here to ogle at the monuments of this region's glorious past.

"We heard the news before coming," Caroline Barbeau, a French-speaking social worker from Montreal, said of violence that has shaken the region since June, displacing 110,000 people from their homes.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Tibetan students in west China clash with police

BEIJING (AP)—A U.S. broadcaster says 20 Tibetan students have been hospitalized after they clashed with police during a demonstration sparked by anger over a government booklet that called the Tibetan language irrelevant and criticized recent self-immolations. Radio Free Asia said at least 20 students were hospitalized Monday after the protest turned violent in Qinghai province's Hainan prefecture. The emailed statement sent Tuesday cited Tibetan exile sources who were in touch with Hainan residents. It said students were angry over a booklet distributed at Tsolho Medical Institute in Hainan that called Tibetan irrelevant and condemned immolation protests by Tibetans as "acts of stupidity." It said students burned the books in their protest.

Thai teachers shut schools over southern violence

PATTANI, Thailand (AP)—Teachers in a violence-wracked southern Thai province said Monday that they are shutting down all primary schools there until the government can guarantee their safety from attacks by Muslim insurgents. Boonsom Tongsriplai, the head of the region's teachers' association, said that Pattani province's 332 schools would be closed indefinitely until officials could boost teachers' confidence in their security. He said teachers in Narathiwat and Yala provinces would be asked to join the boycott. A female school principal was killed last Thursday in Pattani's Nongchik district, the latest of scores of teachers targeted by the insurgents.

World

Egypt's president stands by his decrees

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's president told the country's top judges Monday that he did not infringe on their authority when he seized near absolute powers, setting up a prolonged showdown on the eve of a mass protest planned by opponents of the Islamist leader. An aide to President Mohammed Morsi said the decree was limited to "sovereignty-related issues," but that did not satisfy his critics.

The uncompromising stance came during a meeting between Morsi and members of the Supreme Judiciary Council in a bid to resolve a four-day crisis that has plunged the country into a new round of turmoil with clashes between the two sides that have left one protester dead and hundreds wounded.

The judiciary, the main target of Morsi's edicts, also has pushed back, calling the decrees a power grab and an "assault" on the branch's independence. Judges and prosecutors stayed away from many courts in Cairo and other cities on Sunday and Monday. A spokesman said Morsi told the judges that he acted within his right as the nation's sole source of legislation when he issued decrees putting himself above judicial oversight. The president also extended the same immunity to two bodies dominated by his Islamist allies—a panel drafting a new constitution and parliament's mostly toothless upper chamber.

The spokesman, Yasser Ali, also told reporters that Morsi assured the judges that the decrees did not in any way "infringe" on the judiciary and that they were "temporary" and limited only to "sovereignty-related issues."

Two prominent rights lawyers—Gamal Eid and Ahmed Ragheb—dismissed Ali's remarks.

Eid said they were designed to keep "Morsi above the law," while Ragheb said they amounted to "playing with words."

"This is not what Egyptians are objecting to and protesting about. If the president wanted to resolve the crisis, there should be an amendment to his constitutional declaration."

Ali's comments signaled Morsi's resolve not to back down or compromise on the constitutional amendments he announced last week, raising the likelihood of more violence. Both sides had planned competing rallies in Cairo on Tuesday, but the Brotherhood cancelled its rally late Monday, saying it wanted to reduce tension and congestion in the city.

US defends 'enormous' climate efforts at UN talks

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—Anticipating an onslaught of criticism from poor nations, the United States claimed "enormous" strides in reducing greenhouse emissions at the opening of U.N. climate talks Monday, despite failing to join other industrialized nations in committing to binding cuts.

The pre-emptive U.S. approach underscores one of the major showdowns expected at the two-week conference as China pushes developed countries to take an even greater role in tackling global warming.

Speaking for a coalition of developed nations known as the G77, China's delegate, Su Wei, said rich nations should become party to an extended Kyoto Protocol—an emissions deal for some industrialized countries that the Americans long ago rejected—or at least make "comparable mitigation commitments."

The United States rejected Kyoto because it didn't impose any binding commitments on major developing countries such as India and China, which is now the world's No. 1 carbon emitter.

American delegate Jonathan Pershing offered no new sweeteners to the poor countries, only reiterating what the United States has done to tackle global warming: investing heavily in clean energy, doubling fuel efficiency standards and reducing emissions from coal-fired power plants. Pershing also said the United States would not increase its earlier commitment of cutting emissions by 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020. It is half way to that target.

"I would suggest those who don't follow what the U.S. is doing may not be informed of the scale and extent of the effort, but it's enormous," Pershing said.

"It doesn't mean enough is being done. It's clear the global community, and that includes us, has to do more if we are going to succeed at avoiding the damages projected in a warming world," Pershing added. "It is not to say we haven't acted. We have and we have acted with enormous urgency and singular purpose."

The battles between rich and poor nations have often undermined talks in the past decade and stymied efforts to reach a deal to keep global temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees C (3.6 F), compared to preindustrial times. Efforts taken in the absence of a deal to rein in emissions, reduce deforestation and promote clean technology are not getting the job done. A recent projection by the World Bank showed temperatures are expected to increase by up to 4 degrees C (7.2 F) by 2100.

WORLD BRIEFS

Experts exhume remains of Palestinian leader

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—The remains of the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat were exhumed from his grave on Tuesday so international forensic experts could search for additional clues to his death, Palestinian officials said. The remains were taken from the massive mausoleum in the West Bank city of Ramallah where Arafat was buried and moved to a nearby mosque so Palestinian doctors could take samples from his bones, the officials said. Under Islam, only Muslims can handle a Muslim's remains. The samples will be handed over to French, Swiss and Russian experts who have flown in for the exhumation and who will examine them in their home countries, the officials said. Earlier, samples were also taken from Arafat's bedroom, office and personal belongings, they said.

Mexican beauty queen killed in shootout

CULIACAN, Mexico (AP)—A 20-year-old state beauty queen was killed during a running gun battle between soldiers and the gang of drug traffickers she was traveling with in northern Mexico, the chief prosecutor of the state of Sinaloa said Monday. In a scene reminiscent of the 2011 movie "Miss Bala"—or "Miss Bullet"—the body of Maria Susana Flores Gamez was found lying near an assault rifle on a rural road in a mountainous area of the drug-plagued state. It was unclear if she had used the weapon. "She was with the gang of criminals, but we cannot say whether she participated in the shootout," state prosecutor Marco Antonio Higuera said. "That's what we're going to have to investigate."

Focus

AP

A Palestinian boy looks from the rooftop of a destroyed house in Gaza City, Sunday, Nov. 25, 2012. A leading Islamic cleric in the Gaza Strip has ruled it a sin to violate the recent cease-fire between Israel and the Hamas militant group that governs the Palestinian territory according a religious legitimacy to the truce and giving the Gaza government strong backing to enforce it.

Gaza cease-fire raises hopes for reconstruction

By SARAH EL DEEB
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Mohammed Falah Azzam has been through this before.

His mother's home was bombed in the 2008-09 Israeli military offensive in the Gaza Strip, which left hundreds dead and thousands of homes destroyed. In renewed fighting last week, an entire block of buildings housing his extended family was badly damaged in an airstrike that Israel said was aimed at a militant.

While none of his relatives was hurt, the 61-year-old retired schoolteacher once again has to worry about providing shelter for his family. Some relatives are sleeping in an empty shop, squeezed in with other family members. Others are spending their nights in rooms covered in plastic wrap to shield them from the winter rain because all the windows were blown out.

"This is going to cost thousands," Azzam said. "The longer I wait, the more damage will happen," he added, pointing to a heavily damaged building sitting atop tilting concrete columns.

Azzam finds himself caught again in a pile of paperwork to seek assistance, trying to secure hard-to-get construction materials. This time, he hopes the process will be smoother, thanks to both Israel's pledges to ease its longstanding border blockade and the newfound political clout of Gaza's Hamas rulers in the region.

Israel promised to ease the blockade as part of a cease-fire last week that ended eight days of intense fighting. But difficult negotiations lie ahead, and there is no firm timeline for lifting the restrictions.

Israel launched its offensive Nov. 14 in response to months of rocket fire out of Gaza. It carried out some 1,500 airstrikes during the fighting, while Palestinian militants lobbed a similar number of rockets into Israel.

The damage to buildings in Gaza appears less extensive than it was four years ago. The United Nations estimates 10,000 homes were destroyed or damaged, while Hamas has put the number at about 8,000, including 500 that were destroyed or heavily damaged. In comparison, U.N. relief agencies said as many as 40,000 homes were affected in the earlier round of fighting.

Israel says its airstrikes are aimed at militants, and it blames Hamas for the damage, accusing the group of using residential areas for cover.

Reconstruction since the 2008-9 fighting has been slow, in large part because of Israel's blockade. Israel imposed the restrictions in 2007, after Hamas, a militant group sworn to its destruction, wrested power over the coastal strip from the government of Western-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Under international pressure, Israel loosened the blockade in 2010 but maintained tight restrictions on imports of glass, cement, metal and other construction materials, saying they could be diverted for military use. Only U.N agencies and international organizations in the Palestinian territory are allowed to import such material from Israel for their own projects.

To make up the shortage, a bustling smuggling industry through underground tunnels along the Egyptian border has sprung up. While prices for key construction goods have come down, they still remain expensive for the majority of the population in Gaza, where the unemployment rate is over 30 percent and 80 percent of the people rely on U.N. handouts.

"The blockade in terms of housing impacts us primarily—the U.N.—and the people who are most vulnerable who don't have access to jobs or economic opportunity," said Scott Anderson, deputy director of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency. "People who have money, it is easily available."

In the short term, there is no relief in sight. During the recent offensive, Israel heavily targeted the tunnels, which are also used to bring weapons into Gaza. Residents along the border say that smugglers and tunnel owners are still inspecting the damage but that many of the tunnels still operate, though at reduced capacity.

An Egyptian security official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media, estimated that half the tunnels are not functioning.

With a sullied face and wearing only his undergarments, Azzam gave up his search for valuables in the rubble of his destroyed home on a recent day. He sat down to take a break and do some math.

His mother's house was destroyed by an Israeli airstrike in 2009. Since then, he has barely managed to rebuild one of its two floors. A $25,000 grant he received from an Arab fund did not cover the costs, and materials for the project have been hard to come by.

The Hamas government has given him $1,000 to find a place to live for now, and each member of the extended family received a similar amount. With housing in tight supply and rents skyrocketing, Azzam said the money will not last long.

"As we look there are no places to begin with," he said. "If we find a place, rent will be around $300 or $400. Before it was $200."

Yasser al-Shanti, deputy of the ministry of public works and housing in the Hamas government, said construction materials will start flowing into Gaza again once the tunnels are up and running again.

But Hamas' real hope is that Israel and Egypt will lift border restrictions to allow large quantities of goods into the territory through proper border crossings. Hamas has high hopes for Egypt's new Islamist government, which is far more sympathetic to the Islamic group than the ousted regime of Hosni Mubarak.

The Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt is currently limited to foot traffic. Hamas, an offshoot of Egypt's ruling Muslim Brotherhood, wants Egypt to turn the crossing into a bustling cargo terminal.

"We expect that international and Arab institutions are ready to help. We don't expect to have a problem," al-Shanti said.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13—OPA-027

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 10, 2012 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"FINANCIAL AUDITS OF THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE'S CREDIT UNION FOR THE YEARS ENDING DECEMER 31, 2009, 2010 AND 2011"

THE AUDIT GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE PUBLIC AUDITOR'S MAIN OFFICE AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, EXCEPT HOLIDAYS.

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MR. ROSS ZAPANTA, ANALYST MANAGER, AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (670) 322-6481/2 OR BY FACSIMILE TO (670) 322-7812.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ MICHAEL PAI, PUBLIC AUDITOR | /S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN, DIRECTOR, P&S | /S/ LARRISA C. LARSON, SECRETARY OF FINANCE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Logistics Manager

Graduate of 4-year degree course and with at least 6 years management experience in the logistics business with emphasis on airfreight, ocean freight forwarding, warehousing and fuel hauling operations. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, Environmental and Occupational Safety Hazards is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume to CTSI Logistics, lower base not later than December 7, 2012, Friday.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Public Notice of Special Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Board of Trustees of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation will hold a special meeting at **10:00 am on Friday, November 30, 2012** at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Conference Room, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcomed.

AGENDA
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Conference Room III, Saipan
November 30, 2012

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call

II. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

III. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF LAST BOARD MEETING

IV. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS – NONE
- A. CEO AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT REPORT
  1. Presentation of CEO Annual Report – Juan Babauta
     - a. Rota FY 2012 Annual Report
     - b. Tinian FY 2012 Annual Report
     - c. Appointment of DMA – Dr. Osman
  2. Financial Statement of CHCC – Esther Muna and Cora Ada
  3. Update on current status of Immediate Jeopardy – Esther Muna and Karen Buettner
  4. Program and Financial Report on Public Health – Roxanne Diaz
  5. Facilities Management Update – Warren Villagomez
     - a. Status on Grant for A/C Unit
     - b. IJ issues on Dishwasher
     - c. Equipment Policy Plans for CHC/THC/RHC

V. NEW BUSINESS
- A. Amendment of Board of Trustees Bylaws

VI. MISCELLANEOUS
- A. Next Meeting
- B. Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 Fax: (670) 236-8756

Campus Life

Big win for GCA
at the NJFL and NFL competitions

Bagging most of the first place awards in the National Forensic League, the administration, faculty and staff, and parents of Grace Christian Academy would like to extend their congratulations to the following winners and everyone who participated in the second National Junior Forensic League and National Forensic League held at Chacha Oceanview Junior High School last Nov. 10, 2012. Participated by different private and public schools in the CNMI, these competitions encourage public and private school students to participate in and become proficient in the forensic arts: reading, debate, public speaking, and interpretations.

NATIONAL JUNIOR FORENSIC LEAGUE
6TH-8TH GRADE

Original Oratory
Mina Ito, 1st Place

Extemporaneous Speech
Mina Ito, 2nd Place

Poetry Reading Masters A
Mina Ito, 1st Place

Francis Joseph Dalusung, 2nd Place

Poetry Reading Masters C
Robert Marmito, 1st Place
Alyssa Jade Nunez, 2nd Place
Cyril Salcedo, 3rd Place

Poetry Reading B
Alyssa Jean Pantaleon, 4th Place

Prose Reading Masters C
Alyssa Jade Nunez, 4th Place

Prose Reading Masters D
Mycah Yobech, 2nd Place

Story Telling
Melody Woo, 5th Place

Duo Interpretation A
Cyril Salcedo, 1st Place
Robert Marmito, 1st Place

Duo Interpretation B
Mycah Yobech, 2nd Place
Alyssa Jade Nunez, 2nd Place

Impromptu Speech A
Dianne Arnold, 3rd Place

NATIONAL FORENSIC LEAGUE
9TH-12TH GRADE

Dramatic Interpretation A
Rebekah Kim, 1st Place

Dramatic Interpretation A
Kayla Sasaki, 1st Place

Duo Interpretation A
Terence Ho, 1st Place
Dong Ha Lee, 1st Place

Prose Reading Masters A
Rebekah Kim, 2nd Place

Prose Reading Masters A
Terence Ho, 3rd Place

Poetry Reading Masters A
Angela Mamaril, 1st Place

Story Telling
Dong Ha Lee, 1st Place

Impromptu Speech B
Terence Ho, 1st Place

U.S. Extemporaneous Speech
Angela Mamaril, 1st Place

Commentary A
Angela Mamaril, 1st Place

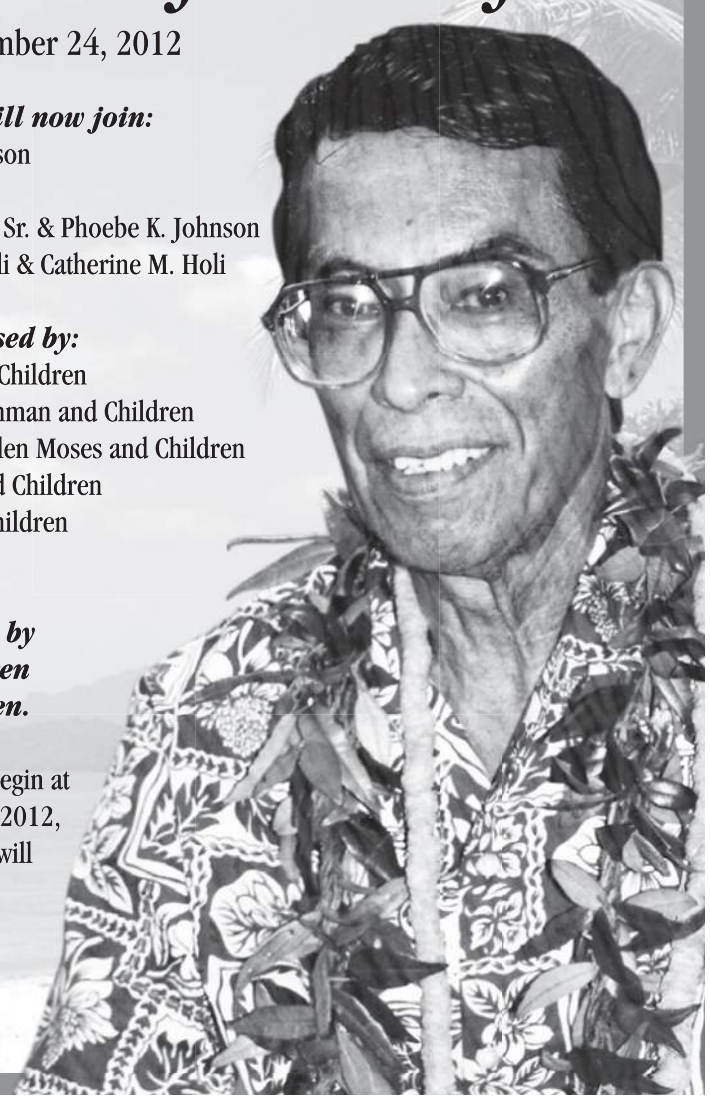
NJFL/NFL Coordinator: Ami Joy Danganan

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Grace Christian Academy's February NJFL/NFL winners have their picture taken inside the GCA campus.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Daniel Keli'i Johnson Jr.

May 30, 1932 – November 24, 2012



In his new life, Dan will now join:
His wife, Lorraine M. Johnson
His son, Henry L. Johnson
Parents, Daniel K. Johnson Sr. & Phoebe K. Johnson
Parents-in-law, John H. Holi & Catherine M. Holi

He will be greatly missed by:
Ezra & Elana Johnson and Children
Samantha & Leonard Greenman and Children
Loran Keli'i & Augustine Allen Moses and Children
Edgar & Melia Johnson and Children
Dan Kaliko Johnson and Children
Nakoa and Kalani Johnson

He will also be missed by numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Viewing and Services will begin at 8am Friday, November 30, 2012, at the CHC Chapel. Burial will immediately follow at the Tanapag Cemetery.

New frontier for scaling up online classes: credit

By JUSTIN POPE
AP EDUCATION WRITER

In 15 years of teaching, University of Pennsylvania classicist Peter Struck has guided perhaps a few hundred students annually in his classes on Greek and Roman mythology through the works of Homer, Sophocles, Aeschylus and others - "the oldest strands of our cultural DNA."

But if you gathered all of those tuition-paying, in-person students together, the group would pale in size compared with the 54,000 from around the world who, this fall alone, are taking his class online for free - a "Massive Open Online Course," or MOOC, offered through a company called Coursera.

Reaching that broader audience of eager learners—seeing students in Brazil and Thailand wrestle online with texts dating back millennia—is thrilling. But he's not prepared to say they're getting the same educational experience.

"Where you have a back-and-forth, interrogating each other ideas, finding shades of gray in each other's ideas, I don't know how much of that you can do in a MOOC," he said. "I can measure some things students are getting out of this course, but it's nowhere near what I can do even when I teach 300 here at Penn."

A year ago, hardly anybody knew the term MOOC. But the Internet-based courses offered by elite universities through Coursera, by a consortium led by Harvard and MIT called edX, and by others, are proving wildly popular, with some classes attracting hundreds of thousands of students. In a field known for glacial change, MOOCs have landed like a meteorite in higher education, and universities are racing for a piece of the action.

The question now is what the MOOCs will ultimately achieve. Will they simply expand access to good instruction (no small thing)? Or will they truly transform higher education, at last shaking up an enterprise that's seemed incapable of improving productivity, thus dooming itself to ever-rising prices?

Much of the answer depends on the concept at the center of a string of recent MOOC announcements: course credit.

Credit's the coin of the realm in higher education, the difference between knowing something and the world recognizing that you do. Without it, students will get a little bit smarter. With it, they'll get smarter—and enjoy faster and cheaper routes to degrees and the careers that follow.

Students are telling the MOOC developers they want credit opportunities, and with a push from funders like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the MOOCs are trying to figure out how to get it to them.

"Initially, I said it'd be three years" before MOOCs began confronting the credit issue, said MIT's Anant Agarwal, president of edX, which launched only last May and has 420,000 students signed up this fall (Coursera is approaching 2 million). "It's been months."

But making MOOC courses credit-worthy brings challenges much harder than producing even the best online lectures, from entering a state-by-state regulatory thicket to assessment. How do you grade 100,000 essays? How do you make sure students in a coffee shop in Kazakhstan aren't cheating on quizzes?

Last Tuesday, Coursera, which offers classes from 34 universities, announced the American Council on Education would begin evaluating a handful of Coursera courses and could recommend other universities accept them for credit (individual colleges ultimately decide what credits to accept). Antioch University, Excelsior College and the University of Texas system are already planning to award credit for some MOOCs.

Two days later, Duke, Northwestern, Vanderbilt and seven other prominent universities announced a consortium called Semester Online offering students at those institutions—and eventually others, though details aren't yet clear - access to new online courses for credit. These won't be giant classes, but the announcement is important because top colleges, generally stingy about accepting outside credit, are signaling they agree the technology can now replicate at least substantially some of the high-priced learning experience that takes place on campus.

The latest announcement will come Monday, and appears smaller but is potentially important: a first-of-its-kind partnership between edX, the MIT-Harvard consortium, and two Massachusetts community colleges. EdX's popular introductory computer science course from MIT will provide the backbone of a class at the community college—a key gateway to degree programs—with supplemental teaching and help from community college faculty on the ground.

This is where the rubber meets the road for transforming higher education. Community colleges are beset by waitlists (400,000 in California alone) and bottlenecks in important introductory courses, as well as low success rates. If scaled-up MIT-quality teaching can help with solve those problems, MOOCS could be truly revolutionary. Massachusetts Bay Community College president John O'Donnell calls edX an invention comparable to Gutenberg's printing press.

Life & Style

Fox interview ends after author criticizes network

NEW YORK (AP)—A Fox News Channel interview ended abruptly Monday after an author accused the network of hyping the killing of four Americans in Benghazi, Libya, and "operating as a wing of the Republican Party."

The charges were made by Thomas Ricks, a veteran newspaper reporter and author of "The Generals," who was brought on for an interview with anchor Jon Scott about GOP criticism of U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice's comments about the attacks.

Ricks said he thought the story of the Benghazi attacks was "hyped, by this network especially."

Scott asked why Ricks would call it hype when four Americans were killed, including the first U.S. ambassador in more than 30 years.

Ricks responded that few people knew how many U.S. security contractors were killed in Iraq and compared that to the attention paid to "what was essentially a small firefight" in Libya.

"I think that the emphasis on Benghazi has been extremely political, partly because Fox was operating as a wing of the Republican Party," Ricks said.

With that, Scott thanked him and turned to a co-anchor, who introduced a commercial.

"When Mr. Ricks ignored the anchor's question, it became clear that his goal was to bring attention to himself and his book," Fox News executive Michael Clemente said.

AP

In this photo taken Sunday Nov. 25, 2012, pop icon Elton John performs during his concert in Beijing.

Elton John dedicates Beijing show to dissident

BEIJING (AP)—Pop icon Elton John publicly dedicated his only concert in Beijing to Chinese artist and political critic Ai Weiwei, sending a murmur of shock through an audience accustomed to tight censorship of entertainment.

Minutes into a more than two-hour show Sunday night, John told the audience that the performance was dedicated "to the spirit and talent of Ai Weiwei," according to several audience members. They said the crowd rumbled in recognition that Ai remains a touchy subject for the Chinese government.

An internationally acclaimed sculptor and installation artist, Ai has used his art and his renown to draw attention to social injustice. He was detained for nearly three months last year, and he remains barred from leaving China.

Ai and John met each other briefly on Sunday before the concert. "I super like him," Ai said on his feed on Twitter, which is banned in China but on which he has 180,000 followers.

China-based online media sites reported on John's Beijing show, as they did on a Friday night performance in Shanghai, but they did not report John's remark about Ai.

The Chinese government exercises tight control of live performances, requiring artists to submit detailed lists of songs, casts and crew members before approval is given. Censors further tightened scrutiny after singer Bjork shouted "Tibet, Tibet" at the close of a song titled "Declare Independence" at a Shanghai performance in 2008.

Actor: TV comedy 'Two and a Half Men' is 'filth'

NEW YORK (AP)—The teenage actor who plays the half in the hit CBS comedy "Two and a Half Men" says it is "filth" and through a video posted by a Christian church has urged viewers not to watch it.

Nineteen-year-old Angus T. Jones has been on the show, which used to feature bad-boy actor Charlie Sheen and remains heavy with sexual innuendo, since he was 10 but says he doesn't want to be on it anymore.

"Please stop watching it," Jones said. "Please stop filling your head with filth."

Jones plays Jake, the son of Jon Cryer's uptight divorced chiropractor character, Alan, and the nephew of Sheen's hedonistic philandering music jingle writer character, Charlie. Sheen, who has publicly criticized CBS, was fired and replaced by Ashton Kutcher, who plays billionaire Walden.

In the video posted by the Forerunner Christian Church in Fremont, California, Jones describes a search for a spiritual home. He says the type of entertainment he's involved in adversely affects the brain and "there's no playing around when it comes to eternity."

AP

In this March 12, 2012 file photo, actor Angus T. Jones arrives at the Paleyfest panel discussion of the television series "Two and a Half Men" in Beverly Hills, Calif.

"You cannot be a true God-fearing person and be on a television show like that," he said. "I know I can't. I'm not OK with what I'm learning, what the Bible says, and being on that television show."

CBS and the show's producer Warner Bros. Television had no comment Monday.

"Two and a Half Men" survived a wild publicity ride less than two years ago, when Sheen was fired for his drug use and publicly complained about the network and the show's creator, Chuck Lorre. Sheen later said he wasn't still angry at the sitcom's producers and the network and acknowledged he would have fired himself had he been in their shoes.

The show was moved from Monday to Thursday this season, and its average viewership has dropped from 20 million an episode to 14.5 million, although last year's numbers were somewhat inflated by the intense interest in Kutcher's debut. It is the third most popular comedy on television behind CBS's "The Big Bang Theory" and ABC's "Modern Family."

The actors on "Two and a Half Men" have contracts that run through the end of this season.

In Loving Memory of Our Dearly Beloved

Francisco Diaz Diaz

better known as "Fransiscon Reiko"
March 30, 1926 - November 23, 2012

Called to his eternal rest by our Lord at 86 years old

Our dearly beloved now joins his heavenly family and will be greeted in his new life by:
Mother: *†Maria Torres Diaz*
Father: *†Francisco Dela Cruz Diaz*
Sisters & Brothers In-Law: *†Juana D. Diaz, †Isabel D. Diaz; †Rita D. Diaz; †Maria D. Diaz; †Rosa D. Gonzales & †Clark Gonzales; †Rita D. Sablan; †Emiliana D. Diaz; †Juan LG. Cabrera*
Brothers & Sisters In-Law: *†Vicente D. Diaz & †Teresa U. Diaz; †Nicolas D. Diaz; †Jose D. Diaz & †Thomasa U. Diaz; †Nicolas D. Diaz; †Antonio D. Diaz & †Maria M. Diaz; †Joaquin P. Villagomez & †Emiliana S.Villagomez*
Son: *†Francisco "Musco" T. Diaz*
Daughter: *†Victorina D. Jones*
Mother-In-Law: *†Harue Tanaka*
Father-in-Law: *†Ei Tanaka*

He will be dearly missed by his:
Wife: *Maria "Reiko" Tanaka Diaz*
Children, Grandchildren & Great-grandchildren:
- *Edward T. & Debra P. Diaz and Family*
- *Elizabeth D. & Ramon Rechebei and Family*
- *†Francisco "Musco" T. Diaz's Family*
- *Margaret D. & Juan "Robit" C. Tudela and Family*
- *David T. & Thasnee "Usa" S. Diaz and Family*

Sister:
- *Concepcion "Chong" D. Cabrera and Family*

Our dearly beloved will also be missed by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Holy mass is being offered for our dearly beloved every morning at 6 AM at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

On Saturday, December 1st, viewing of our dearly beloved will take place at 7 AM at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel and will be escorted to Nuestra Senora de Soledad Church at 9 AM.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 AM, followed by the entombment at the Sanctuario PAX Memorial Gardens in Kagman.

Your thoughts, prayers and presence are sincerely appreciated.

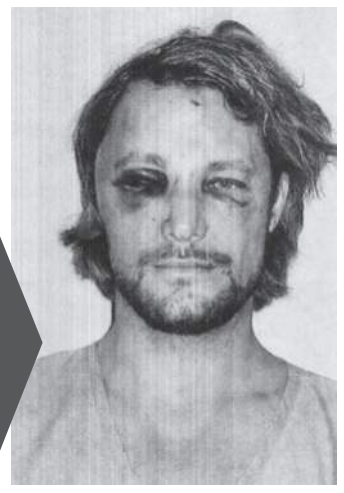
Si Yu'us Ma'ase - Ginen I Familia

Berry's ex says he was threatened before fight

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Halle Berry's ex-boyfriend claims the actress's fiance threatened to kill him during a confrontation that left him with a broken rib, bruised face and under arrest.

Gabriel Aubry's claims are included in court filings that led a judge Monday to grant a restraining order against actor Olivier Martinez, who is engaged to the Oscar-winning actress.

Aubry, 37, was arrested on suspicion of misdemeanor battery after his confrontation with Martinez on Thursday, but he states in the civil court filings that he was not the aggressor and that he was threatened and attacked without provocation. Martinez told police that Aubry had attacked first, the filings state.



This photo made available in Los Angeles Superior Court documents released Monday, Nov. 26, 2012 shows Gabriel Aubry, who was arrested after a Thanksgiving confrontation at Halle Berry's house with the actress' fiance, Olivier Martinez.
AP

A representative for Martinez could not be immediately reached for comment.

Aubry's filing claims Martinez threatened him the day before the fight at an event at his daughter's school that he and the actors attended. Aubry, a model, has a 4-year-old daughter with Berry and the former couple have been engaged in a lengthy custody battle.

The proceedings have been confidential, but Aubry states a major aspect of the case was Berry's wish to move to Paris and take her daughter with her. The request was denied Nov. 9, Berry's court filings state, and Aubry shares joint custody of the young girl.

Aubry claims Martinez told him, "You cost us $3 million," while he was punched and kicked him in the driveway of Berry's home. Aubry had gone to the home to allow his daughter to spend the Thanksgiving holiday with her mother, the filings state. Aubry claims Martinez threatened to kill him if Aubry didn't move to Paris.

Berry was not in the driveway during the confrontation and neither was their daughter, the documents state.

Photos of Aubry's face with cuts and a black eye were included in his court filing.

A judge set a hearing for Dec. 17 to consider whether a three-year restraining order should be granted. Aubry has a Dec. 13 court date for the possible battery case, which has not yet been filed by prosecutors.

Carla Bruni backs gay marriage—but not feminism

PARIS (AP)—France's former first lady Carla Bruni says she disagrees with her conservative husband Nicolas Sarkozy and supports a plan to allow gay marriage and adoption.

In an interview with the French edition of Vogue for its December issue, the 44-year-old singer and supermodel said: "I'm rather in favor because I have a lot of friends—men and women—who are in this situation and I see nothing unstable or perverse in families with gay parents."

France's Socialists are pushing a bill that could see gay marriage legalized early next year. Though surveys have found that the majority of French people favor gay marriage, there has been a vocal backlash from religious leaders, voters in rural areas and ex-President Sarkozy's own UMP party.

"My husband is opposed for reasons linked to his political vocation, because he sees people as groups of thousands rather than people we know personally," she told the magazine—which featured a 20-page photo spread of her decked out in designer clothes, harking back to her supermodel days.

Bruni, no stranger to speaking her mind, also called feminism outdated—a view seemingly at odds with her image as an independent woman who forged careers in both fashion and music before settling down with Sarkozy.

"There's no need to be feminist in my generation," she said.

It's not the first time Bruni has sparked controversy on the subject. Last month, Bruni said her successor, Valerie Trierweiler, should marry her partner, President Francois Hollande, and ditch her career as a journalist.

In an interview with the French edition of Elle magazine, she dished out advice to Trierweiler, saying: "I think it is simpler to be the legitimate wife of the head of state rather than being his partner."

She added, "For my part, I felt a real easing of the general concern about me when I married Nicolas."

AP

In this May 15, 2012 file photo, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, wife of outgoing President Nicolas Sarkozy, waves from a car as they leave the Elysee Palace after the presidential handover ceremony.

Danish theater cancels Amy Winehouse play

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—A play about Amy Winehouse that was to premiere in Denmark in January has been canceled after the late British singer's family blocked its use of her music and photos.

Winehouse spokesman Chris Goodman said Monday the family had never granted the theater company permission to use the singer's materials.

The play "Amy" was written by a group of 11 Danish playwrights and was to have opened on Jan. 30 in a 220-seat theater in central Copenhagen. It was based on interviews, concerts, Winehouse's letters and newspaper articles.

The Danish copyright agency Koda had earlier granted permission for Denmark's Royal Theater to perform the play.

"We acted in good faith when we gave them the permission for the performance. We believed that the format—a theater play—was OK," Koda spokesman Nicolaj Hylten-Cavallius said. "We were told by her father and the lawyers around him that we can forget all about the rights for the music, the photos, branding and everything."

Koda said that Winehouse's father, Mitch Winehouse, objected to the use of any of her music, photos or belongings but gave no reason why, Hylten-Cavallus said.

"Amy" depicts the Grammy-winning soul singer's life and relationship with drugs and alcohol. Winehouse, known for her beehive hairdo, died from alcohol poisoning in July last year at the age of 27.

AP

This campaign ad image provided by Guess? Inc., shows 6-year-old Dannielynn Birkhead. Birkhead, the daughter of the late Anna Nicole Smith, is walking in her mother's shoes, taking a starring role in the spring ad campaign for Guess Kids.

Anna Nicole Smith daughter a Guess model

The 6-year-old daughter of the late Anna Nicole Smith is walking in her mother's shoes, taking a starring role in the spring ad campaign for Guess Kids.

Guess? Inc.'s creative director Paul Marciano says in a statement that Dannielynn Birkhead has the "same playful spirit" that her mother would carry onto a set.

The brand hired Smith in 1992, and she appeared in its sexy denim-wear ads through 1993. She was a relative modeling unknown at the time, although earlier in 1992 she was on a Playboy magazine cover.

Smith died in 2007.

Dannielynn's campaign also stars Peyton Edmunds, the daughter of music industry veteran Babyface. The ads were shot on a Malibu, Calif., beach, and they'll start appearing in magazines, on billboards and on buses beginning in January. ***(AP)***

Bieber booed in native Canada by football fans

TORONTO (AP)—Justin Bieber faced a hostile homecoming during his halftime performance at Canada's football Grey Cup, facing boos and jeers.

The Toronto crowd booed Sunday when the 18-year-old pop star's face popped up on the JumboTron screen. They booed when a host spoke his name. And they booed as he took the stage and throughout his medley of the chart-topper "Boyfriend" and the disco-inflected "Beauty and a Beat."

If Bieber was bothered, it didn't show.

"Thank you so much Canada," Bieber said. "I love you."

Earlier in the week, Bieber was presented with a Diamond Jubilee Medal by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and caused a scene by wearing overalls, unbuttoned on one shoulder, over a white T-shirt, with a backwards baseball cap.

AP

Justin Bieber performs during the half-time show at the CFL Grey Cup championship football game between the Toronto Argonauts and the Calgary Stampeders, Sunday, Nov. 25, 2012, in Toronto.

There was sufficient uproar that Harper even weighed in on Twitter. "In fairness to [Bieber]," Harper tweeted Sunday, "I told him I would be wearing my overalls too."

The Canadian Football League may have been hoping to court Bieber's army of tween followers on Sunday. But recent Grey Cup halftime performers have skewed toward the comparatively heavy likes of Nickelback and Lenny Kravitz.

"J-Biebs doesn't scream football, you know? Neither does Carly Rae Jepsen," said Calgary's Ryan Prisque, 22.

The 27-year-old Jepsen also received a mixed reaction at first Sunday but won the crowd over during an enthusiastic medley of her latest single, "This Kiss," and her infectious hit "Call Me Maybe."

Chris Brown deletes Twitter account after feud

R&B singer Chris Brown has deleted his Twitter account after a vulgar online exchange with comedian Jenny Johnson.

Johnson says she's now receiving death threats on Twitter from Brown's supporters.

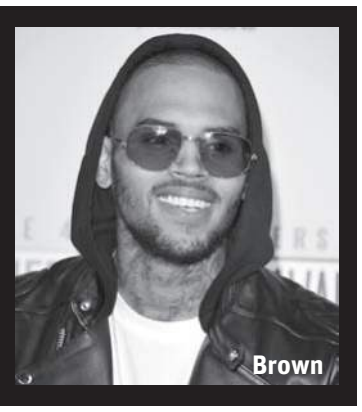
The fight started when 23-year-old Brown posted a picture of himself, saying he looked old. Johnson replied: "I know! Being a worthless piece of (expletive) can really age a person."

Brown fired back with a series of crude sexual jokes. Johnson posted a link to a news story about Brown's 2009 assault on singer Rihanna.

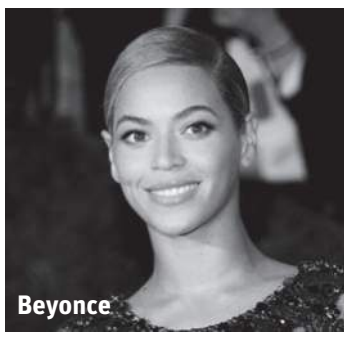
Before deleting his account, Brown wrote: "Just ask Rihanna if she mad??????" The on-again-off-again couple has been seen together recently.

A representative for Brown's record label didn't immediately respond Monday to an email seeking comment.

Brown had 11.6 million followers on Twitter. ***(AP)***



Brown



Beyonce

Beyonce documentary premiering on HBO in February

NEW YORK (AP)—Beyonce is getting personal.

HBO announced Monday that a documentary about the Grammy-winning singer will debut Feb. 16, 2013. Beyonce is directing the film, which will include footage she shot herself with her laptop.

The network said the documentary will include "video that provides raw, unprecedented access to the private entertainment icon and high-voltage performances." It will also feature home videos of her family and of the singer as a new mother and owner of her company, Parkwood Entertainment.

Beyonce said in a statement the untitled project was "personal" to her. She is married to Jay-Z. They had their first child, daughter Blue Ivy Carter, in January.

The 31-year-old will perform at the 2013 Super Bowl halftime show on Feb. 3, 13 days before the documentary airs.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

On average the Stones older than US Supreme Court

NEW YORK (AP)—The U.S. Supreme Court used to be called Nine Old Men. That's nothing compared to the ageless Rolling Stones. The justices on average are the kid brothers and sisters of the forever young rock n' rollers. The average age for the four living members of The Rolling Stones is about two years older than the nine justices of the U.S. Supreme Court. Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts and Ronnie Wood have an average age of 68 years and 297 days, while the Supreme Court justices' average is 66 years and 364 days. That makes the rock band one year and 10 months older than the members of the highest court of the United States. The Rolling Stones are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year with a five-date tour in New York, New Jersey and London, where the first show kicked off Sunday night.

Camera sold for $2.19 million in Austria

VIENNA (AP)—An Austrian photo gallery says a camera used by a photographer who documented the life of artist Pablo Picasso has sold for a world record price of €1.68 million ($2.19 million). The Westlicht gallery says the Leica m3d belonged to David Douglas Duncan. The 96-year-old former photographer for LIFE magazine was a close friend of Picasso and published hundreds of exclusive photos of him. Manufactured in 1955, the camera is one of four ever made, and the price is a world record for a commercially produced camera. In a statement Monday, Westlicht says the second-highest price in the Saturday's sale was for a gold-plated Leica made in 1929, which sold for €1.02 million ($1.3 million).

Buzz kill: US won't send Andrew W.K. to Bahrain

WASHINGTON (AP)—Andrew W.K. won't be taking his party to Bahrain after all. The American performer announced on his website that he had been named a cultural ambassador to Bahrain, where he'd promote "partying and world peace." He had been tentatively invited by the U.S. Embassy in Bahrain to visit the country, but the State Department had second thoughts. Spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Monday that the invitation to 33-year-old singer of songs including "Party Til You Puke" had been rescinded by senior U.S. officials because they deemed him an inappropriate choice for outreach in the conservative Muslim kingdom. Andrew W.K. describes himself as a singer-songwriter and motivational speaker, among other things.

Man accused of stealing Tim Allen's Chevy Impala

DENVER (AP)—A man suspected of stealing one of Tim Allen's custom cars says the comedian left the keys so he could drive it to Denver. Denver police spokesman Sonny Jackson said Monday that 34-year-old Faustino Ibarra is being held without bond while awaiting extradition to California after his arrest on Saturday. In a jailhouse interview with KDVR-TV, Ibarra claimed Allen adopted him years ago. Jackson said there is no evidence of any adoption. Ibarra said Allen had left the door to his garage open along with the keys. Police confirmed that the customized 1996 Chevrolet Impala SS belonged to the "Home Improvement" star but said it hadn't yet been reported stolen when it turned up in Denver. Allen's publicist Marleah (mar-LEE-uh) Leslie said she wouldn't comment because it's a police matter.

Private memorials for 'Dallas' star Larry Hagman

DALLAS (AP)—"Dallas" actor Larry Hagman will be remembered this week during private, invitation-only services in Dallas and Los Angeles. The television actor known for starring as slick oilman J.R. Ewing on "Dallas" and Maj. Tony Nelson on "I Dream of Jeannie" died Friday of complications from cancer. He was 81. Hagman's personal manager John Castonia said Monday that the memorial services will celebrate the Fort Worth native's life. He declined to provide details. Hagman had been filming the new edition of "Dallas" for the TNT network. Hagman was diagnosed in 1992 with cirrhosis of the liver and acknowledged he drank heavily for years. In 1995, a malignant tumor was discovered on his liver and he underwent a transplant. Hagman became an advocate for organ donation and anti-smoking efforts.

Husband can't get over pain of discovering wife's past

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married for five years. I recently discovered that she made between 10 and 20 porn videos when she was 19. We got married when she was 27. We have four kids from two previous marriages.

I am devastated. When I confronted her about it, she cried harder than I had ever seen. She said she was lost, and it's the biggest regret of her entire life.

I understand how hard it can be to tell someone you have done something like this. I haven't led a perfect life either, and I have my own skeletons and things that I would never mention. But still, I can't get over this. I have never felt pain like this in my entire life and don't know what to do. I love my wife and don't want a divorce, but it haunts my every thought. We have had a great life and I trust her completely. What should I do to get over this?

DEVASTATED IN THE U.S.A.

DEAR DEVASTATED: A giant step in the right direction would be to accept that you BOTH had a history before you married each other, and you both have done things you aren't proud of. Then make a list of all the GOOD things you have together, and forgive your wife for making some painful mistakes in the past that she was too ashamed to tell you. It certainly beats divorcing a woman you love over something she can't change. If that doesn't work, then you'd be wise to seek marriage counseling.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife verbally abuses me constantly. We have an 11-month-old child, which is the only reason I tolerate it. While I try hard not to curse back, once in a while I end up doing so.

I have sought professional help to cope with her behavior, but the suggestions haven't helped much. The situation is becoming unbearable, and I don't see it changing any time soon. What should I do?

UNBEARABLE IN VIRGINIA

DEAR UNBEARABLE: The suggestions haven't helped because you weren't the person who needed the professional help; your wife does. In a moment when she is calm, tell her that as much as you care about her and your child, you do not intend to spend the rest of your life being her verbal whipping boy, and if she doesn't get help for her anger issues, you will leave. If she refuses, you should follow through and make sure you get equal custody, if not more, because her volatility could be harmful to your child.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We are a pair of senior citizens who are very much in love. We have a lot in common and enjoy our companionship. Marriage is not an option because of pensions, bank accounts and predetermined heirs—you know the story.

We would like the whole world to know we are committed and devoted to each other. Would it be unusual, at this late stage, to become engaged with no intention of setting a wedding date?

BLISSFUL IN FLORIDA

DEAR BLISSFUL: Rather than become engaged with no intention of formalizing your union, why not have a commitment ceremony and invite friends and family to celebrate your love for each other with you? Ask a member of the clergy to bless your union. I'm sure one would oblige because it has been done before.

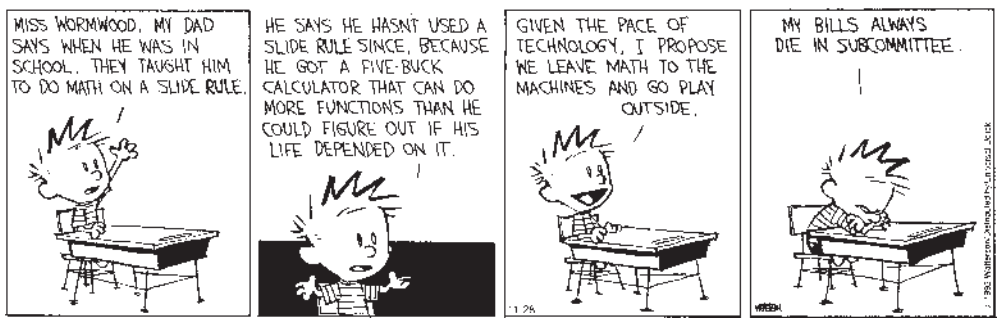
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

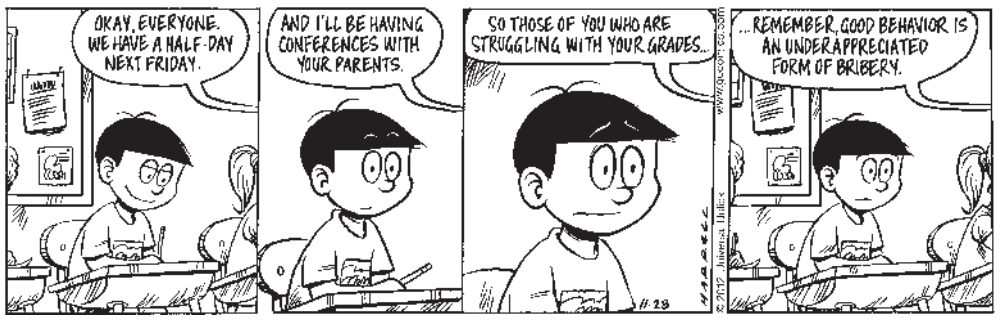

MISS WORMWOOD, MY DAD SAYS WHEN HE WAS IN SCHOOL, THEY TAUGHT HIM TO DO MATH ON A SLIDE RULE.
HE SAYS HE HASN'T USED A SLIDE RULE SINCE, BECAUSE HE GOT A FIVE-BUCK CALCULATOR THAT CAN DO MORE FUNCTIONS THAN HE COULD FIGURE OUT IF HIS LIFE DEPENDED ON IT.
GIVEN THE PACE OF TECHNOLOGY, I PROPOSE WE LEAVE MATH TO THE MACHINES AND GO PLAY OUTSIDE.
MY BILLS ALWAYS DIE IN SUBCOMMITTEE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY, EVERYONE. WE HAVE A HALF-DAY NEXT FRIDAY.
AND I'LL BE HAVING CONFERENCES WITH YOUR PARENTS.
SO THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE STRUGGLING WITH YOUR GRADES...
...REMEMBER, GOOD BEHAVIOR IS AN UNDERAPPRECIATED FORM OF BRIBERY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

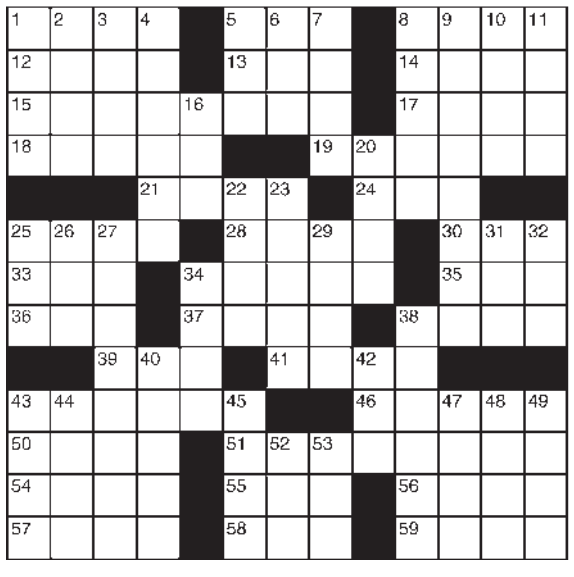
ACROSS
1 Where Jesus changed water to wine
5 Knock
8 Envelope part
12 Neural transmitter
13 Ram's mate
14 Toy block name
15 No skeptic
17 Microwave, e.g.
18 Nickelodeon-style gunk
19 Kind of movie glasses
21 Pinnacle
24 Rowing need
25 Courage
28 Elliptical
30 "Modern Family" network
33 Fire residue
34 — so often
35 Sticky stuff
36 Muumuu accessory
37 — Pak of the LPGA
38 Shaft of light
39 Kreskin's claim
41 Story
43 Small flocks
46 Winning
50 Vicinity
51 With adroitness
54 Hair salon request
55 Be unwell
56 Not "fer"
57 Santa's sackful
58 Ump
59 Lavish affection (on)

DOWN
1 Urban fleet
2 Skating jump
3 — me tangere
4 Inner selves, to Jung
5 Gun the engine
6 Shock and —
7 Saucy
8 Plant life
9 Effectiveness
10 Screenwriter James
11 Small lake
16 Common Mkt. inits., once
20 Sacred
22 Relocate
23 Chris of tennis fame
25 Cowboy's sweetie
26 Work with
27 Pick-pocket's crime
29 Met melody
31 Feathery neckpiece
32 Web address ending
34 Catch sight of
38 Decapitate
40 Some stockings have them
42 Restroom, for short
43 Team leader (Abbr.)
44 Sandwich treat
45 Wound reminder
47 Therefore
48 Came down
49 Measure of force
52 Whopper
53 Keebler employee?

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	H	A	B	■	O	D	D	■	T	I	N	T
R	O	I	L	■	L	E	I	■	O	B	O	E
M	E	L	O	D	I	E	S	■	W	I	N	E
■	■	■	W	O	O	■	S	E	A	S	O	N
S	H	R	U	G	■	R	O	I	T	■	■	■
C	O	O	P	■	M	E	L	L	O	W	E	D
A	L	L	■	H	A	L	V	E	■	A	D	O
M	E	L	V	I	L	L	E	■	D	R	A	I
■	■	■	O	L	D	E	■	G	I	M	M	E
C	A	J	O	L	E	■	E	E	K	■	■	■
A	V	I	D	■	M	E	L	T	D	O	W	N
P	O	I	O	■	F	M	S	■	I	D	F	A
O	N	T	O	■	R	U	E	■	K	E	E	P

Yesterday's answer 11-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Kwanten, 36; Jon Stewart, 50; Ed Harris, 62; Paul Shaffer, 63.

Happy Birthday: Take a look at what's being offered and stick to practical plans that have potential to grow. A change in the way you approach people and projects will lead to greater prosperity and freedom. Speak openly. Your numbers are 8, 11, 17, 21, 27, 33, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Work on personal and professional partnerships. Set up rules, schedules or whatever else is required to avoid setbacks. Back away from the people dragging you down and spend more time with the people who can offer you something in return. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Control whatever situation you face. Put a unique touch on whatever you pursue. Revisit old relationships and consider how you can revitalize a situation that you feel has potential. Love is in the stars, and a commitment or change is apparent. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Do your own thing. Pursue your dreams, hopes and wishes. Don't settle for less when you know you can have so much more. Speak up honestly about your needs and you will weed out the people who are taking advantage of you. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Spend more time with friends, family or your lover. Personal opportunities will develop if you get involved in an event that interests you. Don't hold back—you have good ideas that will be well received. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't leave room for error. Offer honesty and you will find out where you stand and what can be accomplished. Problems with your residence or a family member can be expected. You'll have to implement change if you want to avoid discord. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll gain knowledge by interacting with people in your community. Knowing what is in demand will help you strategically come up with a service you can offer in order to bring in extra cash. Don't settle for less when you can have more. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Review your past and you will recognize a pattern you keep encountering. Set a new standard and strive to use updated means and methods to accomplish your goals. Don't argue a losing battle when you should be following your own path. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take time to turn your home into a stress-free sanctuary. You need to find your comfort zone in order to revitalize your creativity. Love and romance are in the stars. The people you associate with should be those who inspire you the most. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): The past will come back to haunt you if you are indulgent emotionally, physically or financially. Reconsider the partnerships you have and if you are benefiting or giving up too much. Put more effort into a creative skill that can bring you greater prosperity. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Being a team player will help you with your professional achievements. Getting along and sharing interests with someone you enjoy spending time with will turn into a long-term partnership. Don't make a radical decision for the wrong reason. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Choose your words carefully. Don't make a promise you won't be able to keep. Focus on family and stability. Home will be your safety zone and where you should put your time and effort. A visitor will offer positive feedback and inspiration. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Wheel and deal until you get what you want. Offer a creative plan that will be difficult to ignore. There is money to be made and partnerships to be formed. Don't feel you must compete or outdo when you just have to follow your heart. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are versatile, resourceful and innovative. You are persistent and courageous.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		9	1	7	6			
			5			6		
8		6					2	
6	9				7			3
	1						9	
3	8	4						7
4	5		7				6	
2				6	9	1		
			8	2				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	9	7	2	1	5	8	4	3
3	4	1	9	7	8	6	2	5
2	5	8	4	3	6	1	9	7
8	3	5	6	4	2	9	7	1
9	6	4	1	8	7	3	5	2
7	1	2	3	5	9	4	8	6
5	7	6	8	9	1	2	3	4
1	8	3	5	2	4	7	6	9
4	2	9	7	6	3	5	1	8

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/27

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ATTILA THE HUN Solution: 7 letters

A	L	S	I	S	D	I	O	L	O	G	N	O	M	F
W	E	E	C	N	A	S	S	I	A	N	E	R	I	E
E	A	S	G	O	F	V	O	L	G	A	U	E	L	A
B	D	R	C	E	U	A	A	R	Ⓛ	Ⓐ	Ⓡ	Ⓤ	I	R
U	E	A	R	I	N	R	M	G	E	C	A	N	T	S
N	R	S	V	I	T	D	G	O	E	V	S	A	A	O
A	S	U	I	N	O	L	A	E	U	S	I	I	R	M
D	H	S	L	W	I	R	A	R	E	S	A	R	Y	E
H	I	E	C	E	O	Y	E	B	Y	K	N	A	R	M
O	P	R	N	K	R	M	I	L	E	E	N	B	E	P
N	E	I	I	B	E	R	T	R	T	Y	O	R	H	I
O	H	D	L	R	T	A	K	Z	E	T	M	A	C	R
R	L	E	A	P	O	W	E	R	V	I	A	B	R	E
I	D	C	O	M	P	L	E	X	O	C	D	B	A	S
A	J	A	V	E	L	I	N	E	M	E	S	R	O	H

© 2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 11/28

Archery, Army, Baltic Sea, Barbarian, Battle, Bleda, Care, City, Complex, Danube, Empire, Etzel, Eurasian Nomads, Fearsome, Fierce, Honoria, Horsemen, Ildiko, Infamous, Invade, Javelin, Kreka, Leadership, Legendary, Military, Mongoloid, Move, Power, Renaissance, Rhine, River, Ruler, Savage, Scourge, Tribes, Ural, Volga, Warrior, Wise

Yesterday's Answer: Seven-Eleven

The NEW Treasury of Wonderword Puzzles is published by Andrews McMeel Publishing and contains 175 puzzles. To order, send $13.95 (which includes $3.00 postage and handling) to Andrews McMeel Publishing, Dept. WW, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64111. Add $4.95 for first-class delivery. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery. Offer valid in U.S. only. Canadian residents, please call 1-800-943-2665 for ordering information.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution:
All eyes are on you

WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

FOR SALE

2009 Hyundai Tucson SUV. Excellent condition; Like new; Mileage 29K; Color Silver; Sale $10,900. Call 287-7676.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For $200.00 / month. Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Computer Repair
Only $15 Student Laptop — Restore OS Call for more into.
Student Dell LCD only $70
FREE INSTALLATION
Calvatron 233-5641
Open: MOnday-Saturday 9:00am - 9:00pm

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $29.99 without Insurance
Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio
Some conditions may apply

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Ground Maintenance
Salary: $5.55 Duties: Lawn Care Cleaning and Bush cutting
Interested applicants can call 788-9693 or 285-6056.

JR Lawn Care
PMB 1864 Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96952

Job Vacancy Announcement

WELDER (1) - $5.55 to $6.00 per hour.
Must be high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as Welder. Must be knowledgeable on how to perform SMAW, GMAW, GTAW welding process, with knowledge how to use plasma cutting machine, oxy-acethelene cutting, hang soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products. Must be able to work flexible time.

Closing Date: December 8, 2012

Application are available at GPPC Inc. at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of valid Police Clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing may be required. GPPC, INC. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

VACANCY

Marianas Management Corporation is currently seeking for qualified candidates to fill the following position

HVAC-R

Qualification: Must have knowledge of Walk-In- Freezer/Chiller and AC System

Please apply in person at the J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. Human Resources Office
Joeten Center, Susupe

Marianas Management Corporation
Is an equal opportunity employer

(NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE)

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
DEPUTY CORPORATE DIRECTOR (UNGRADED)

Opening Date: November 26, 2012 **Closing Date: December 12, 2012**

Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Salary: $58,000 per annum

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up during working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and **submit a cover letter together with the NMHC Employment Application Form AND required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.**

NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original cover letter, application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 12, 2012, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than Wednesday, December 12, 2012, to the Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to admin@nmhc.gov.mp . NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

JAE HOON CORPROATON D.B.A. PACIFIC GROCERS has openings for:

One (1) General Manager
Minimum qualifications: Three years experience as a general manager for wholesale company with a minimum of 2,500 sales items and ability to read, write and speak Korean sufficiently to negotiate contracts and communicate with Korean speaking customers.
Duties: Manages and directs the company's overall wholesale food operations in Saipan as well as with Korean suppliers. Works in conjunction with company's corporate officers in planning, formulating, and establishing long-term and short-term objectives and goals as well as its marketing and operational policies and procedures. Manages and oversees the day-to-day sales, business, and administrative functions of the company. Manages and directs the company's marketing and sales activities, including implementation of the company's sales policies and marketing strategies; monitors overall sales activities and conformance with sales parameters; and oversees contractual arrangements and import/export financing requirements. Establishes and maintains customer relationships with existing clients and negotiates sales contracts with major customers. Directs and oversees expansion into new product lines and market areas. Exercises discretionary authority over the company's operations and personnel.

One (1) Operations Manager
Minimum qualifications: Three years experience as an operations for wholesale company with a minimum of 2,500 sales items.
Duties: Assists General Manager in managing and directing the company's operations in order to assure operational efficiency and identifies and resolves operational deficiencies. Manages the stock and inventory requirements based on sales orders, inventory, projected volume of sales, and current condition of economy. Supervises the purchase and procurement of merchandise, including import requirements with freight companies and government agencies. Manages assembly and storing of products by workers, filling of orders, and distribution to customers according to sales orders. Ensures compliance with established security, sales, and recordkeeping procedures and implements operational procedures of the company. Assumes the responsibilities of the General Manager in his absence.

One (1) Bookkeeper
Minimum qualifications: Three years experience as a bookkeeper or accountant for wholesale company with a minimum of 2,500 sales items and working knowledge of Quickbooks and SellWise software.
Duties: Assists General Manager in managing and directing the company's operations in order to assure operational efficiency and identifies and resolves operational deficiencies. Manages the stock and inventory requirements based on sales orders, inventory, projected volume of sales, and current condition of economy. Supervises the purchase and procurement of merchandise, including import requirements with freight companies and government agencies. Manages assembly and storing of products by workers, filling of orders, and distribution to customers according to sales orders. Ensures compliance with established security, sales, and recordkeeping procedures and implements operational procedures of the company. Assumes the responsibilities of the General Manager in his absence.

One (1) Sales Representative
Minimum qualifications: Two years experience as a sales representative for wholesale company with a minimum of 2,500 sales items.
Duties: Sells company's products to retail stores. Meets with customers in order to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Displays and/or demonstrates products and suggests products that meet customers' needs. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts. May sign purchase orders, and collect payment from customers.

One (1) Salesperson
Minimum qualifications: Two years experience as a salesperson for wholesale company with a minimum of 2,500 sales items.
Duties: Sells company's products to retail stores. Meets with customers in order to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts and may collect payment from customers. Ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Arranges and/or provides delivery of products to customers.

One (1) Stocker
Minimum qualifications: One year experience as a stocker or warehouseman for wholesale company with a minimum of 2,500 sales items.
Duties: Receives merchandise and maintains stock records in warehouse. Unloads merchandise from containers and verifies that merchandise received is listed on requisitions and invoices. Stocks merchandise in warehouse, inventories merchandise, and maintains orderliness of merchandise on display and in warehouse. Assists in filling and loading orders for delivery of merchandise to customers.

If interested, send resume to Jae Hoon Corporation d.b.a Pacific Grocers by email to jychris@pacificgrocers.com or by fax at 670-288-1239. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within three days of hire.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper **Call 235-NEWS**

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

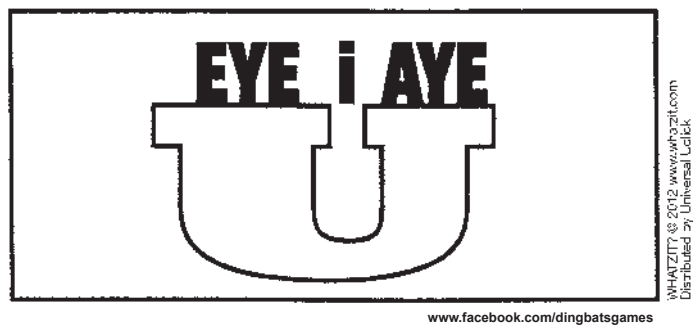
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Thunder dominate first half, rout Bobcats

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Russell Westbrook tipped away a pass, got into the open court all by himself and then braced for a big take-off and a signature throwdown dunk. Instead, he meekly flipped the ball into the basket and grinned sheepishly at the Oklahoma City Thunder bench after the miscue.

"I really thought he was going to do something a little better than what he did, but I'll take up for him and say he slipped a little bit," said Kevin Durant, the three-time NBA scoring champion.

"But he made up for it at the end of the half."

Did he ever.

Westbrook powered home a right-handed slam to put an exclamation point on one of the most dominant first halves in NBA history, putting Oklahoma City up by 40 on its way to a 114-69 blowout of the Charlotte Bobcats on Monday night.

The 64-24 advantage was the fifth-biggest halftime lead in NBA's shot clock era and the largest since Golden State set the record with an 88-41 edge on Sacramento on Nov. 2, 1991, according to STATS.

It ended up as the biggest blowout in Bobcats history.

"We struggled to hit shots, we struggled to get good shots, we got beat on the boards. We got beat in all facets of the game," Charlotte center Brendan Haywood said. "In a game like this tonight, you just basically say they beat us in every which way possible and you bounce back and you learn from the film."

Durant scored 18 points and Westbrook had 12 points and 11 assists. The defending Western Conference champions pulled their starters after Durant's 3-pointer from the right wing made it 79-25 less than 5 minutes into the second half.

"We came out and took care of business, regardless of who the opponent is," Westbrook said. "That's a good team. They came in tonight and had won some big games.

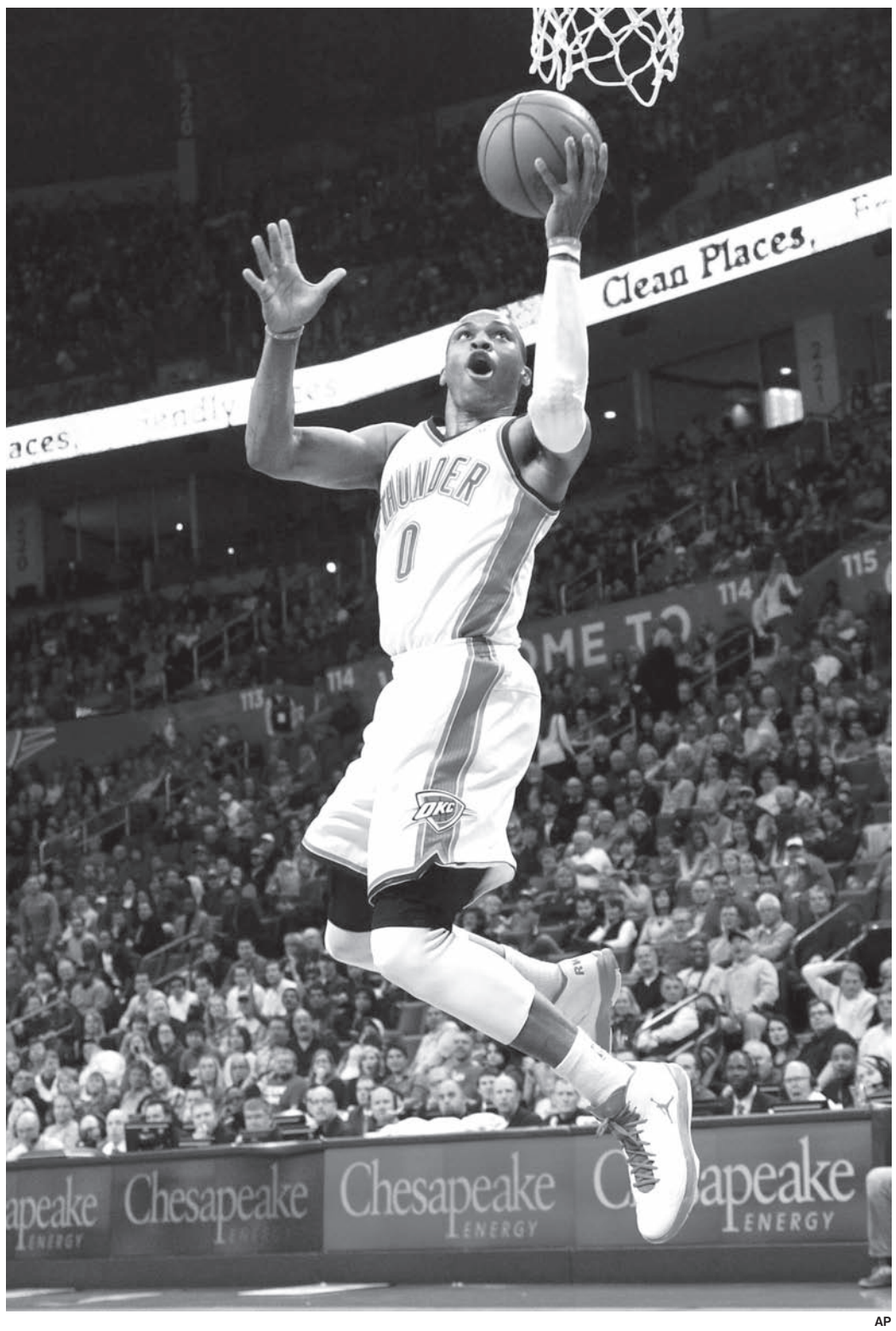
"We just took care of business."

Rookie Jeff Taylor scored 10 points to lead Charlotte, which had shown promise with seven early wins—the same number it had last season while going 7-59 and setting an NBA record for futility.

The franchise's worst blowout previously had been a 112-68 defeat against Portland on Feb. 1.

"There hasn't been any kind of damage control to be done on this game," first-year coach Mike Dunlap said. "We kind of know that OKC is a test for us, we failed it miserably but there are other, better days ahead."

The Bobcats opened with their worst offensive quarter of the season, scoring just 12 points while committing seven turnovers on their 20 possessions, and it only got worse.



AP

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) shoots against the Charlotte Bobcats in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Monday, Nov. 26, 2012.

Oklahoma City broke it open with a 22-3 run, scoring the final 10 points of the first quarter and then 12 of the first 15 to start the second. Eric Maynor and Kevin Martin hit 3-pointers on consecutive possessions, and Durant followed that by setting up back-to-back two-handed dunks by Hasheem Thabeet and Nick Collison to make it 40-15 with 8:23 left before halftime.

The Thunder shot 60 percent from the field in the first half while limiting Charlotte to 22 percent and forcing 11 turnovers. The Bobcats made only 3 of 20 shots in the second quarter while getting outscored 36-12.

The biggest concern for Dunlap, though, was a 28-15 disadvantage on the boards that he said comes down to "nothing more than raw bone effort."

"We're obviously better than last year. That shows," said ex-Thunder center Byron Mullens. "But tonight, they just got our number. I don't know what else to say. They got us tonight."

Dunlap said the Bobcats are "too young to throw the tape away" and just act like the game never happened.

"You have to take it serious. You have to look at it definitely seriously and you have to take it as a learning experience," Haywood said.

The last five players on the Thunder bench played the entire fourth quarter but Charlotte still couldn't avoid the most lopsided loss in the franchise's history, despite pulling within 38 twice in the fourth quarter.

It didn't come close to the NBA record for margin of victory—from Cleveland's 148-80 rout of Miami on Dec. 17, 1991.

"You can overreact in these situations, but we need to react and respond to it, no doubt," Dunlap said.

It still wasn't a Thunder franchise record for a halftime margin. When the team was based in Seattle, the SuperSonics held a 75-31 lead at Boston on Nov. 23, 1967—the second-largest margin in the shot clock era, which started in the 1954-55 season.

Westbrook playfully dodged giving an explanation of his open-court flub, simply taking credit for it as "two points."

About a minute and a half later he atoned for it with the last of the Thunder's 13 straight points to finish the first half.

"They was sleeping. Everybody's head turned, so I decided to go and take off," Westbrook said.

Asked whether there was any reason he slammed the ball down so hard, he gave a big grin and said: "It's a tendency. I have a tendency of dunking the ball like that. Just natural, I guess."

Nets 96, Knicks 89, OT

In New York, the Nets worked overtime to pull out the opener of their new-look rivalry with the Knicks, winning to tie their city rivals for first place.

Jerry Stackhouse, wearing the No. 42 Jackie Robinson made famous in Brooklyn, made the tiebreaking 3-pointer with 3:31 left in overtime as the Nets controlled the extra period of a playoff-like game that neither team led by more than seven.

Brook Lopez had 22 points and 11 rebounds, and Deron Williams added 16 points and 14 assists as the Nets improved to 7-1 in their new home and tied the Knicks atop the Atlantic Division at 9-4.

Carmelo Anthony had 35 points and 13 rebounds, but was only 10 of 16 at the free throw line. Tyson Chandler finished with 28 points and 10 boards, but no other Knicks player was in double figures.

Pistons 108, Trail Blazers 101

In Auburn Hills, Mich., Brandon Knight scored 16 of his 26 points in the first half, outplaying Damian Lillard in a matchup of young guards and leading the Pistons to a victory over the Trail Blazers.

Lillard entered the day as the NBA's top rookie scorer, averaging 19.6 points per game. He missed his first 12 shots from the field against the Pistons.

Detroit is 4-3 since dropping its first eight games. The Pistons won for the first time when allowing more than 90 points.

LaMarcus Aldridge was back in the lineup for Portland after missing a game with back spasms. He scored 32 points but didn't have enough help with Lillard struggling.

Spurs 118, Wizards 92

In Washington, Boris Diaw scored 16 points, Tiago Splitter had 15 points and 12 rebounds and Tony Parker added 15 to help the Spurs win their fourth straight over the still-winless Washington Wizards.

The Wizards are the 12th team in NBA history to start the season 0-12 according to STATS and are six away from equaling the New Jersey Nets' record 0-18 start in 2009-10. In their first 11 games, Washington lost by a total of just 72 points and never by more than 16.

The Spurs had seven players in double figures as they continued their successful road trip. Tim Duncan had 14, Gary Neal 13, Manu Ginobili 12 and Matt Bonner had 11. After winning the first four games of the six-game trip, they're now 8-1 on the road and 12-3 overall.

Grizzlies 84, Cavaliers 78

In Memphis, Tenn., Zach Randolph and Marc Gasol scored 19 points each and the Memphis Grizzlies overcame a lethargic performance to escape with a victory over the Cavaliers.

Rudy Gay scored 15 points, and Quincy Pondexter had 10 points, including 2 of 3 from outside the arc as Memphis won its second straight and maintained its position with the best record in the NBA.

Anderson Varejao and Dion Waiters scored 15 each to lead Cleveland, Varejao grabbing 22 rebounds, including eight offensive board. Daniel Gibson scored 11 for the Cavs, who lost their third straight and ninth in the last 10.

The Cavaliers still held the lead with 8:28 left, but Memphis closed the game on a 13-4 run, part of the Grizzlies outscoring Cleveland 22-9.

Bucks 93, Bulls 92

In Chicago, Ersan Ilyasova scored 14 of his 18 points in the second half and the Bucks overcame a 27-point deficit in a stunning win over the Bulls.

Richard Hamilton scored a season-high 30 points for the Bulls but missed a shot at the buzzer that could have won it.

Ilyasova led a 31-4 second half-run as the Bucks snapped a nine-game losing streak to Chicago and prevented the Bulls from moving past Milwaukee into first place in the Central Division.

Ilyasova scored 12 points in the fourth quarter when Milwaukee outscored Chicago 30-12. Milwaukee played the entire fourth quarter with five reserves: Ilyasova, Epke Udoh, Beno Udrih, Mike Dunleavy and Doron Lamb.

John Henson, Udrih and Udoh all scored 11 points while Monta Ellis added 10. The Bucks hadn't beaten Chicago since April 6, 2010.

Jazz 105, Nuggets 103

In Salt Lake City, Al Jefferson scored a season-high 28 points and Derrick Favors made three free throws down the stretch, helping the Jazz remain unbeaten at home with a win over the Nuggets.

The Nuggets had a chance to tie it with 3.6 seconds left but Ty Lawson was double-teamed and passed too late for Corey Brewer to get off a final shot.

The Jazz, who improved to 6-0 at home, trailed by as many as 16 in the first half and were down 12 with 7:27 left in the third before going on a 14-2 run to tie it at 77.

The Nuggets played the rest of the way without Andre Iguodala, who was ejected with 3:24 left in the third. He had 10 points, three rebounds and three turnovers.

Favors added a season-high 19 points and seven rebounds, including two in the final minute.

Kenneth Faried led Denver with 21 points.

Hornets 105, Clippers 98

In Los Angeles, Greivis Vasquez had 25 points and 10 assists and the Hornets' defense took Blake Griffin completely out of the game en route to a victory over the skidding Clippers, ending the Hornets' seven-game losing streak.

Griffin made only one of nine shots in 35 minutes, finishing with a career-low four points and six rebounds before fouling out with 2:36 left in the game. It marked only the fourth time he failed to reach double digits in scoring in 173 NBA regular season and playoff games.

Ryan Anderson and Jason Smith each scored 17 points for the Hornets and Austin Rivers added 14. Anthony Davis, the top overall pick in the June draft, missed his fifth straight game because of an injured left ankle.

Caron Butler made a career-high nine 3-pointers on 15 attempts and finished with 33 points, becoming the first Clipper this season to score at least 30. The two teams combined for 33 3-pointers on 62 attempts.

Newton leads Panthers past Eagles, 30-22

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—This was the Cam Newton who was the talk of the NFL last season.

Newton threw for two touchdowns and ran for two more to lead the Carolina Panthers to a 30-22 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles on Monday night in a matchup of teams with the worst records in the NFC.

Newton, who hadn't played up to his sensational rookie season, showed no signs of a sophomore slump against Philadelphia's porous pass defense. He finished 18 of 28 for 306 yards and had a passer rating of 125.

"I think my best game is still to come," Newton said. "I'm still focused on getting better each and every week."

Bryce Brown set a club rookie record with 178 yards rushing, including TD runs of 65 and 5 yards, but the Eagles (3-8) still lost their seventh straight game.

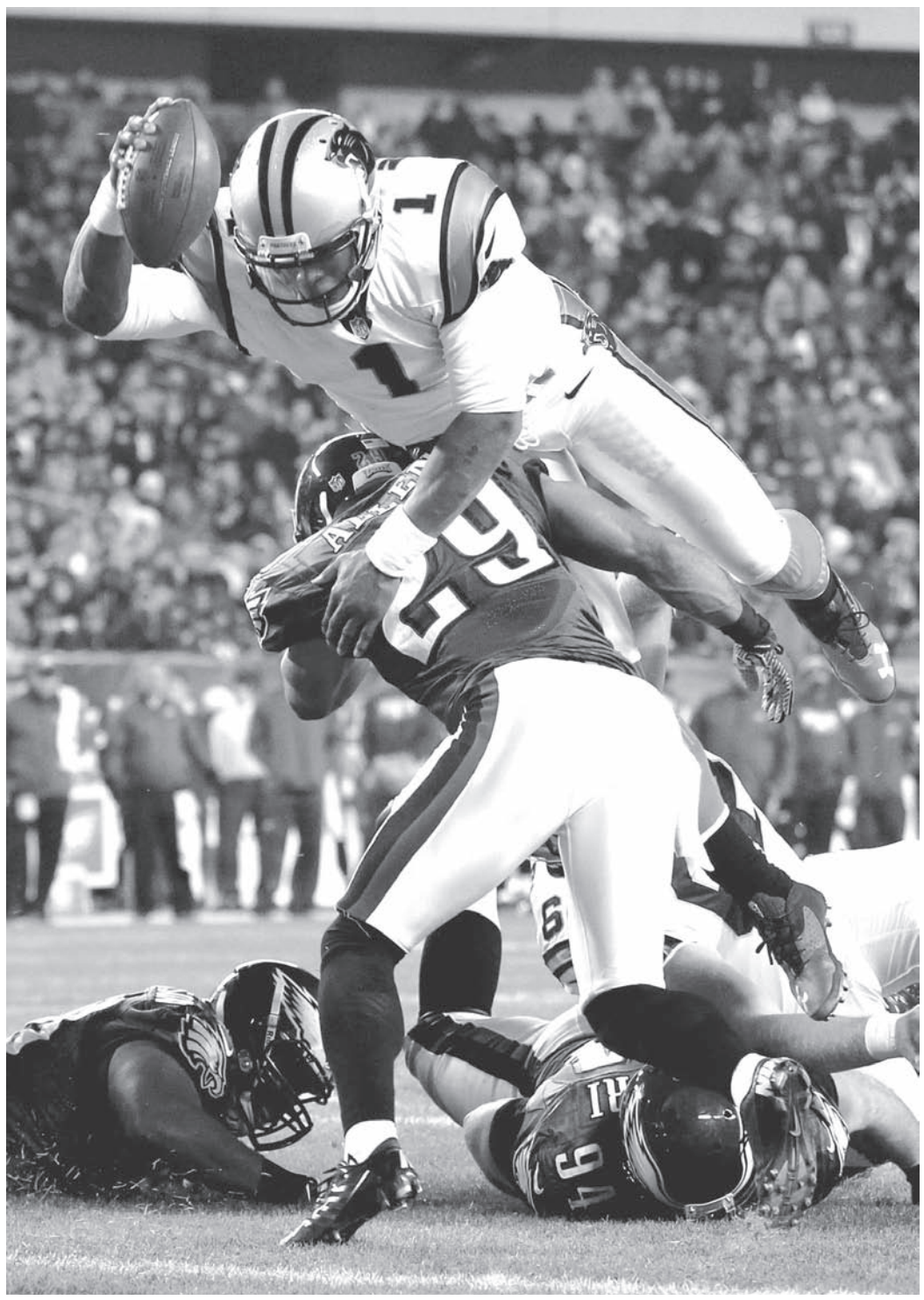
Brown, filling in for injured running back LeSean McCoy, surpassed Correll Buckhalter's rookie mark of 134 yards rushing in his first start since his senior year at Wichita East High School in 2008. But Brown also lost two fumbles, including one in Panthers' territory.

Fellow rookie Nick Foles was so-so in his second straight start for Michael Vick, who also sat out with a concussion. Foles was 16 of 21 for 119 yards.

"The most important thing for me was for us to get the win and that didn't happen tonight," Brown said. "I felt like a lot of that had to do with my two turnovers. It really, really cost us."

Carolina (3-8) went ahead 24-22 early in the fourth quarter on Graham Gano's 23-yard field goal.

Then the Panthers finally stopped Brown when it mattered most, stuffing him on a fourth-and-1 to take over on downs at their 40. Newton led them downfield, running in from the 2 to make it 30-22. Gano, signed last week, missed the extra point. But Brandon Boykin fumbled after a 44-yard kickoff return, the Panthers recovered and held the ball the final 4:29.



AP

Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton (1) hurdles Philadelphia Eagles strong safety Nate Allen (29) to score a touchdown in the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Nov. 26, 2012, in Philadelphia.

"It's been a long time in coming," Panthers coach Ron Rivera said. "Lots of people contributed and made plays. Real proud of what we did and the things we did to give ourselves a chance to win."

Newton, the No, 1 overall pick in the 2011 NFL draft, lived up to the hype by throwing for 4,051 yards with 21 TD passes and 14 TDs on the ground in his first year. He entered this game with only nine TD passes and four TDs rushing, a major disappointment for Panthers fans.

But Newton outshined a rookie seventh-round pick in his Monday night debut.

"We took some plays off his plate and really tried to balance it out and spread it among other players and he has really responded very well to those things," Rivera said. "I think we had to interpret it as giving him a breath once in a while. These last few weeks, he's played like the guy we believe he could become."

Newton had a 24-yard TD toss over the middle to a wide-open Gary Barnidge for a 7-3 lead. He connected with Brandon LaFell on a 43-yard pass to make it 14-3 later in the first quarter. LaFell was wide open on the play, taking advantage of another breakdown in coverage in the secondary.

Since Todd Bowles replaced Juan Castillo as defensive coordinator, the Eagles have allowed 13 passing touchdowns and haven't had an interception in five games.

Newton led a 95-yard drive to open the third quarter, finishing it off with a 1-yard leap to give the Panthers a 21-15 lead. Newton hit Louis Murphy for a 55-yard gain on a second-and-11 from Carolina's 16.

A 51-yard pass interference call on Haruki Nakamura on Foles' deep pass to Jeremy Maclin put Philadelphia at the Panthers 5. Brown then ran in for the go-ahead score.

Brown broke loose early in the second quarter to get Philadelphia within 14-12. Brown started up the middle, cut outside and outran the defense down the right sideline for the seventh-longest TD run by a Philadelphia rookie. The Eagles inexplicably tried a 2-point conversion and failed.

"Bryce did what we thought he could do," Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "He's a talented kid. It's a shame he had the two fumbles. He was on a roll. Those things cost you. He'll learn from it. He's got a great future."

Alex Henery's 45-yard field goal gave them a 15-14 lead. Henery kicked a 41-yarder to cut it to 14-6 in the second quarter. It was his 18th straight field goal, setting a team record.

The Eagles haven't won since beating the defending Super Bowl champion New York Giants to go 3-1, leaving fans and media to speculate about Reid's job. Owner Jeffrey Lurie already has said that an 8-8 record would be "unacceptable" this year. The Eagles would have to finish 5-0 just to get there.

"I'm not worried about all the other things," Reid said. "We haven't talked about that. He's been supportive. Obviously he's competitive and wants to win games."

Fans known for their hostile behavior have become apathetic toward their beloved Eagles. The Linc was about one-third empty for pregame introductions and plenty of seats remained empty at the start. There were boos early when the Eagles fell behind, but they lacked the usual luster.

The Panthers have shown they're better than their record. They have lost six games by less than a touchdown, including a 2-point loss at Atlanta and a 1-point loss at Chicago.

"It's a huge stage, Monday Night Football, on the road," tackle Jordan Gross said. "It was just big for us and big for the guys on the team who haven't experienced something like this."

The injury-depleted Eagles lost wide receiver DeSean Jackson (sternum) and defensive tackle Fletcher Cox (tail bone) in the first half.

Longoria agrees to deal adding $100 million

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Evan Longoria wants to be with the Tampa Bay Rays for his entire big league career.

The slugging third baseman got his wish Monday when they Rays agreed to a $136.6 million, 10-year contract that adds six guaranteed seasons and $100 million.

"I always wanted to be kind of a benchmark player ... the guy that you could think about or associate with the organization," Longoria said. "My goal from Day One was to be the first player that played their whole career here, to be the first guy that came into the organization and went out in the organization, and played all the years in between. There's no better place for me."

The agreement with the three-time All-Star incorporates the remainder of the 27-year-old's existing contract, which called for him to earn $36.6 million over the next four seasons. The new deal includes a team option for 2023 that could make the deal worth $144.6 million over 11 years.

"It's a very exciting day for us," Rays principal owner Stuart Sternberg said. "For Evan to have the confidence in us, and I know the confidence that we have in him, to re-up so to speak for the long haul. This is just an enormous commitment for us."

Longoria said a no-trade provision is not included in the deal, although after the second day of the 2018 season he would have a right to block trades as a 10-year veteran who spent his last five years with the same team.

Just six games into his major league career, Longoria agreed in April 2008 to a $17.5 million, six-year contract that included club options potentially making the deal worth $44 million over nine seasons.

"The significance of this is not lost on anybody," Rays executive vice president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman said. "We're extending that commitment now."

His new deal calls for a $5,000,180 signing bonus—the $180 is for good luck. Of the signing bonus, $1,000,180 is new money payable Dec. 15 and the rest is pair of $2 million payments on Feb. 15 and June 14. His 2013 salary is reduced from $6 million to $2 million.

Longoria's salaries remain $7.5 million for 2014, $11 million for 2015 and $12.1 million for 2016. The new deal adds salaries of $13 million for 2017, $13.5 million for 2018, $14.5 million for 2019, $15 million for 2020, $18.5 million for 2021 and $19.5 million for 2022.

Tampa Bay holds a $13 million option for 2023 with a $5 million buyout, and escalators could raise the option price to $18 million.

Longoria became just the seventh player with a contract guaranteed through 2020. Milwaukee outfielder Ryan Braun, Detroit first baseman Prince Fielder, Chicago Cubs outfielder Jorge Soler and Colorado shortstop Troy Tulowitzki have deals covering the next eight years, with Los Angeles Angels first baseman Albert Pujols' contract running through 2021 and Cincinnati first baseman Joey Votto's through 2023.

Tampa Bay selected Longoria as the third overall pick in the 2006 amateur draft, making him the first player drafted under Sternberg and Friedman.

Longoria played in just 74 games in 2012 because of a partially torn left hamstring. He underwent a minor surgical cleanup procedure on the hamstring Nov. 20 and is expected to be ready for spring training.

"With the time that we had now, there's no doubt that I'd be able to recover and be at 100 percent or close to it by (the start of) spring training," Longoria said.

Longoria will rehab the leg during the winter and will not participate in next year's World Baseball Classic.

Tampa Bay was 41-44 during Longoria's absence, and 47-27 with him in the starting lineup.

The two-time AL Gold Glove winner and 2008 AL Rookie of the Year ranks second on the Rays career list with 130 home runs, third with 456 RBIs and fourth with 161 doubles. Longoria is one of 11 active players to average at least 25 homers and 90 RBIs during his first five seasons.

Longoria will donate more than $1 million during the contract to the Rays Baseball Foundation, the team's charitable foundation.

Sternberg said this deal does not rule out the possibility of signing other Tampa Bay players to mulityear contracts, such as AL Cy Young Award winner David Price. The Rays were at the bottom of the big leagues in home attendance this year.

"One of the challenges we'll have is figuring out how to take the next step for our organization," Sternberg said.

Tampa Bay and Longoria had brief, preliminary contract talks before the season began and resumed discussions after the season ended.

"We kind of tried to find a middle ground to where we would able to do some things to be able to afford some players to put ourselves in a position to win every year," Longoria said. "And I told them from the beginning that I didn't want to be the one sucking up all the payroll so we can't afford anybody else."

Fukushima tops Rota Blue Triathlon

» Rota residents roll out red carpet for athletes

In a field of 114, Tomokazu Fukushima of Japan bested the competition to win the top spot in the 19th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon held last Nov. 17.

Fukushima was the first male finisher of the 1.5-kilometer swim, 40km bike, and 10km run, crossing the finish line of the picturesque course in 2:13:14. The top female finisher in the A-type course was Sonoko Matsubara of Japan, finishing in 2:49:33 and 14th overall.

Japanese competitors swept most top spots in the triathlon. Fukushima bested last year's champion Taro Shirato, who finished in second place in 2:14:18, and last year's second place finisher Hidea Miyazuka, who finished third this year in 2:27:09. In the women's division, Yuri Nakagawa followed hot on the heels of Matsubara, finishing in 2:50:19, while Yuki Ando placed in third at 3:12:49.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A biker in the 19th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon on Nov. 17, 2012, glides by the tree-lined turquoise lagoon of Rota, a quiet, unspoiled island in the Northern Marianas.

In the men's Olympic distance, B-type triathlon, which featured a 2km swim, 90km biking course, and a 21km run, Masayuki Matsumaru led with 4:29:48, followed by Tatsuro Yasukawa in 5:04:12, and Satoshi Imaizumi in 5:10:15. Completing first in the women's division (and second overall) was Hiromi Matsumaru with a total combined time of 4:58:46, followed in second by Yoko Kawatani in 5:15:54 and Tomoe Kinoshita in 5:54:30.

The Kumagai family of Japan was the lone team entry. Eleven-year-old Hayato Kumagai tackled the bike leg of his first triathlon, joined forces with his mother Miharu and his father Koji to finish the race in 3:21:14.

The annual Rota Blue Triathlon is jointly sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority, Kiyokazu Fitness Club of Japan and the Rota Mayor's Office. Triathletes from Rota, Saipan, and Japan convened on Rota for the event, many taking a special flight chartered directly from Japan.

"Once again, the municipality of Rota has rolled out the red carpet for the Rota Blue Triathlon," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "Mother Nature cooperated, organization and logistics went well, community members gave their full support at the aid stations, and we sent many competitors home with happy memories of a great weekend in Rota."

Dozens of government employees, student volunteers, and private citizens began manning water stations before sunrise, offering water and words of encouragement to triathletes long into the day. In some cases, the volunteers made it a family affair, bringing their own barbeque grills, picnic tables, food, and drinks for the long day. Along with their parents, young children offered cups of water to competitors and scurried after discarded cups along Rota's quiet roadsides. Later that day at the open air awards banquet, organizers served up some of the best of local cuisine: red rice, taro, barbecued chicken and ribs, coco (pickled) papaya, eggplant boiled in coconut milk, and more.

"The races in Japan are so serious," said Miharu Kumagai, through a translator at the awards banquet. "But here, people are so warm and comfortable."

The annual Rota Blue Triathlon is held each November is one of four major triathlon events held in the Northern Mariana Islands, including the XTERRA Saipan Championship, Tagaman Triathlon, and the Tinian Turquoise Blue events. The next big race organized by the MVA will be the 6th Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run on Jan. 26, 2013. ***(MVA)***

LONDON

From Page 28

either catches the other squad or records the fastest time over the full distance wins the race). Sun's squad finished 10th overall.

Before the tournament in London, Sun and his brother Chan both joined the prestigious 2012 Tour De Korea, an eight-stage, 1,500km race from Gumi to Seoul and the longest cycling competition in Asia. It draws some of the best riders around the world, including the controversial Lance Armstrong, who joined the event in 2007.

In the 2012 Tour De Korea held from April 23-29, Chan topped Stage 3 (135.6km race from Gwangju to Yeosu), held the yellow jersey until Stage 6, and placed third in Stage 8 (45.8km race from Yeoju to Hannam).

Not to be outdone was Sun, who led the sprints in Stages 1, 2, and 8). The 27-year-old Sun went on to finish second in the spring king race, collecting 15 points, just three points behind winner Maximiliano Richeze of Argentina.

In the overall standings, Chan placed better than his older brother, as the former was ranked No. 30 after completing the seven stages of the race in 21:04:50, just 1:17 behind Tour de Korea winner Sung Baek Park (21:03:33). Sun landed at the No. 42 spot with his 21:05:47 or 2:14 behind Park.

Only 109 riders finished the race that was trimmed to seven stages as the 176.2km Stage 4 race from Yeosu to Geochang was cancelled due to heavy rains. Sun's Korean National Team placed fifth overall and second in the Asian squads category, while Chan's Terengganu Cycling Team were ranked at No. 11 out of 21 teams and sixth out of 12 in the Asian squads standings. Team Optum of U.S. pro Ken Hanson was the overall winner, while Seoul Cycling Team ruled the Asian division.

Meanwhile, Anderson arrived on Saipan last Monday morning and had a practice ride yesterday with fellow defending champion and compatriot Jodie Willet. Former PIC general manager Kieran Daly is also in town to compete in the weekend race, while a group of Russian pros were scheduled to touch down at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last night. Other bikers from Japan, Korea, and Guam are expected to arrive a few days before the Saturday event.

The Hell of Marianas bike race will start at 6:15am at PIC's southern parking lot in San Antonio and motorists and pedestrians are advised to take extra caution from 6am to 10am, as a lot of bikers will be cruising the island Saturday morning.

ALL

From Page 28

and high school race at 6:30am. The U8 runners will be next at 7:15am, while the 7:30am start is for U10 and U12 competitors.

"Team and individual awards will be immediately presented after the race in each age category," Rangamar added.

The Top 3 finishers in each age group will get medals, while ribbons will be awarded to the fourth to sixth finishers. In the team category, the Top 3 schools in each age group will get trophies. Winners in the team division will be determined via points system with each school getting points based on how their runners finished in the race.

The visiting Tinian High School will be going for both the individual and team awards this weekend, as the Stallions decided to field runners from their volleyball squad.

"We would like to welcome the Tinian Stallions and Mr. Eric San Nicholas to this year's cross country championships. They are here for the MISO volleyball tournament and decided to enter their squad in the meet. Tinian runners had participated in the past cross country races, but due to funding issues, they were not able to make any of the meets for several years," Rangamar said.

The meet director also thanked the principals and teachers of Saipan schools that participated in the first three legs of the race.

"Big kudos to the school officials, teachers, and the students' parents for their commitment and dedication in making this year's cross country season a success. Your enthusiasm and devotion made it possible for all the participants to enjoy a different type of competition in the outdoor environment, running through grass, sand, mud, woodlands, and water," Rangamar added.

Series 1 of the cross country season took place at the Airport Field, while Series 2 was held in Susupe with runners cruising along the shore. The penultimate race was then held around the AMP.

MULTIPLE

From Page 28

tition, Minor and Miller were awarded the first place plaque after prevailing over Jake Lee and Rafael Jones.

Other junior doubles winners who received the plaques (with their pictures on it) from tournament co-chair Lydia Tan and Bobby Cruz were boys divisions' Rintaro Miyawaki and Mondo Taniguchi (U10), Haruya Eda and Vincent Tudela (U12), and Moris Villanueva and Tommy Choi (U15) and girls categories' Conatsu Kaga and Asia Raulerson (U10), and Tania Tan and Julia Ishikawa (U12).

In the juniors singles, the first place plaques went to U10's Rai Aditya and Jireh Warren, U12's Robbie Schorr and Ami Tsukagoshi, and U15's Dylan Ackerman and Negahr Rastguiy.

Rastguiy got her second first place plaque when she and Lopez were named women's open doubles champions after beating Lydia Tan and Guam's Yuka Iwata. Lopez also earned her second first place finish as she ruled the women's open singles, beating Minor and Guam's Camdyn Nadler. Lopez then got her third plum when she and Jeff Race defeated Minor and Bobby Cruz in the mixed open doubles.

Another junior player, Carol Lee, went home with two first place plaques, as she won the women's 4.0 against Isabel Heras and the mixed 4.0 with Richard Asuncion. Asuncion missed his second first place win when he and Ronnie Lacbayo bowed to Cruz and Roy Pangelinan in the men's open doubles, while the latter notched his second victory after teaming up with Joy Minor in winning the mixed doubles 40-and-above finals against Lydia Tan and Guam's George Lai.

Other mixed doubles champions were the pairs of Don Castillo and Marivic Rosario (3.0) and Tania Tan and Clayton Izuka (2.0), while Sally Lee and Lydia Tan and May Ling Colombo and Qing Xin took the women's 4.0 and 3.0 doubles titles, respectively.

Castillo also ruled the men's 3.0 singles, joining Bong Gamab (men's 40-and-above), Brian Tuncap (men's 4.0), and Jones (open) in the elite circle.

Meanwhile, sportsmanship awards were also handed out at the ceremony with Guam's George Lai earning the citation in the men's division and Tisha Sonota prevailing in the women's field. Choi and Tonya Regis were the awardees in the juniors division.

BACK-TO-BACK

From Page 28

(148.75), Ben Aizon (147.75), Raul Dumapit (147.50), Yong Woon Lee (143.50), and Jerry Kaneshi (135.25).

In the Queen of the Lanes, Diane Chong saved her best for last to win in the monthly tournament for the first time.

Chong logged 126, 135, and 153 in the first three games before going all out in the final roll-off and scoring 201 pinfalls to dislodge Carol McKenzie from the top spot. McKenzie had 454 (142, 168, and 144) pinfalls after three games and ahead by 40 against Chong, but settled for runner-honors after the latter tallied only 146 in Game 4.

Ron Cal and Myrna Santos, who were tied in second place after three games with their similar 418 pinfalls, fell to third and fifth, as they wound up with 593 and 578 pinfalls, respectively. Cora Muna also collected 578 pinfalls to force a deadlock for fifth place with Santos. Lala Taitano and Marie Candado completed the field and scored 554 and 538 pinfalls, respectively.

Aldan back on top

In the Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes Tournament, M.J. Aldan ended his drought in the youth roll-off after beating three others.

Aldan, who ruled the youth competition from March to July before going on a three-month slump, earned 598 pinfalls to down Marion McKenzie (553), John Taisacan (487), and October winner Ryan Batac (466).

Aldan showed his best form in Game 4, logging 165 pinfalls. He had 145, 151, and 137 in the first three games for an average of 149.50 pinfalls. McKenzie was behind Aldan by 11 pinfalls, as the former recorded an average of 138.25 (155, 133, 134, and 131), while Taisacan and Batac posted 121.75 (122, 121, 132, and 112) and 116.50 (95, 95, 125, and 149), respectively.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	9	4	.692	—
New York	9	4	.692	—
Philadelphia	8	6	.571	1½
Boston	8	6	.571	1½
Toronto	3	11	.214	6½

Southeast Division

Miami	10	3	.769	—
Atlanta	8	4	.667	1½
Charlotte	7	6	.538	3
Orlando	5	8	.385	5
Washington	0	12	.000	9½

Central Division

Milwaukee	7	5	.583	—
Chicago	6	7	.462	1½
Indiana	6	8	.429	2
Detroit	4	11	.267	4½
Cleveland	3	11	.214	5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	10	2	.833	½
San Antonio	12	3	.800	—
Dallas	7	7	.500	4½
Houston	6	7	.462	5
New Orleans	4	9	.308	7

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	11	4	.733	—
Denver	8	7	.533	3
Utah	8	7	.533	3
Portland	6	8	.429	4½
Minnesota	5	7	.417	4½

Pacific Division

Golden State	8	6	.571	—
L.A. Clippers	8	6	.571	—
L.A. Lakers	7	7	.500	1
Phoenix	6	8	.429	2
Sacramento	4	9	.308	3½

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	3	0	.727	407	244
Miami	5	6	0	.455	211	226
N.Y. Jets	4	7	0	.364	221	290
Buffalo	4	7	0	.364	243	319
South						
Houston	10	1	0	.909	327	211
Indianapolis	7	4	0	.636	230	273
Tennessee	4	7	0	.364	238	335
Jacksonville	2	9	0	.182	188	308
North						
Baltimore	9	2	0	.818	283	219
Pittsburgh	6	5	0	.545	231	210
Cincinnati	6	5	0	.545	282	247
Cleveland	3	8	0	.273	209	248
West						
Denver	8	3	0	.727	318	221
San Diego	4	7	0	.364	245	237
Oakland	3	8	0	.273	218	356
Kansas City	1	10	0	.091	161	301

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	7	4	0	.636	305	226
Washington	5	6	0	.455	295	285
Dallas	5	6	0	.455	242	262
Philadelphia	3	8	0	.273	184	282
South						
Atlanta	10	1	0	.909	294	216
Tampa Bay	6	5	0	.545	310	254
New Orleans	5	6	0	.455	308	304
Carolina	3	8	0	.273	214	265
North						
Chicago	8	3	0	.727	277	175
Green Bay	7	4	0	.636	273	245
Minnesota	6	5	0	.545	248	249
Detroit	4	7	0	.364	267	280
West						
San Francisco	8	2	1	.773	276	155
Seattle	6	5	0	.545	219	185
St. Louis	4	6	1	.409	205	254
Arizona	4	7	0	.364	180	227

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rotary Caging U20 Championship

Photos By
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

From second left, Hi-5's Emerson Feria, Sonics' Jimmy Tudela, and the Proa duo of Shane Deleon Guerrero-Diaz and Ichitaro Faisao, second right, pose for a group photo with Rotary Club of Saipan's Richard Cody, left, and Kelly Butcher, fourth right, and BANMI's Elias Rangamar, right, after being recognized as the U20 age division's Fabulous Five selections during the awards ceremony. Rollers 1 coach Fred Litulumar is standing in for Prince Factor.

Hi-5 players pose for a group photo after accepting second-runner up honors during the trophy presentation.

Sonics' coach Omar Ajoste, second right, graciously accepts the best coach award.

Mariana Resort-Proa players gather for a team photo with Rotary Club of Saipan representatives and their runner-up trophy during the awards ceremony.

Fans cheer as the Sonics complete back-to-back championships against Mariana Resort-Proa in the finals of the U20 division of the 21st Annual Rotary Club of Saipan Youth Basketball League last Nov. 16 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Above, Sonics' Nevin Salem, second left, and Jimmy Tudela pose for a photo with BANMI's Elias Rangamar, far right, and Rotary Club of Saipan's Kelly Butcher, left, and Richard Cody after accepting their respective finals MVP and regular season MVP medals.

Right, Sonics' Jack Aranda, right, draws contact in the paint from Proa's Ichitaro Faisao.

Far right, Mariana Resort-Proa's Ichitaro Faisao accepts the scoring champ prize from BANMI's Ellie Rangamar, left, and Rotary Club of Saipan's Kelly Butcher and Richard Cody, far right.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

London Olympics biker to race in 'Hell'

WWW. TOURDEKOREA.COM

Sun Jae Jang (in blue jersey) joins a pack of bikers heading to the finish line of Stage 6 of the 2012 Tour De Korea held in April this year.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 100 bikers, including a participant in the 2012 London Olympics and his equally talented younger brother, will be competing in this Saturday's 2012 Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.

Glenn Policare, Sports, Entertainment and Activities director of the organizing Pacific Islands Club, said that Korean bikers Chan Jae and Sun Jae Jang are among those who registered for the 100-kilometer race and are expected to give defending champion John Anderson of Australia a run for his money.

HELL OF THE MARIANAS
THE PIC CENTURY CYCLE

Sun suited for the Korean National Team in the London Olympics a few months ago and competed in the Men's Team Pursuit (a 4km race at a velodrome for four-person team with two opposing squads starting on either side of the track. The team that

See LONDON on Page 26

Multiple winners in Tennis Classic

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam's George Lai celebrates after getting the sportsmanship award in the 4th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic during the banquet held last Sunday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Several participants in the 4th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic brought home more than one first place plaques after the awards ceremony for the annual competition last Sunday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

In the juniors division, Christian Miller and Thea Minor took the boys and girls U18 singles awards after beating Rafael Jones and Mikayla Lopez in the finals, respectively Seiya Eda also won a plaque after topping the consolation round, while Alina Ishikawa secured the same award in the girls U18.

Then in the doubles compe-

See MULTIPLE on Page 26

All Schools Cross Country Championships Saturday

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the 2012 NMA All Schools Cross Country Series 2 pose for a group photo at the Airport Field after the race last month. This Saturday, student-runners will compete in the cross country championships at the American Memorial Park.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics will conclude its cross country season this Saturday with the staging of the 2012 All Schools Cross Country Championships at the American Memorial Park.

Student-runners who competed in the first three legs of the annual event are qualified to join the final race, which will have some modification in the race schedule. Instead of having the U8 runners heading out to the course first, entries in the high school and junior high school will start the competition.

"There was a suggestion to scheduling the junior high and high school race first, followed by the elementary divisions due to the SAT test scheduled later this Saturday," race director Elias Rangamar said.

To give way to the SAT test, NMA will have the junior high

See ALL on Page 26

Back-to-back for Manacop; Chong gets first

Aldan

Chong

Manacop

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Bowling Association/Budweiser King of the Lanes November roll-off had a repeat winner, while the Queen of the Lanes contest produced a first-time victor.

Simon Manacop, who topped the October tournament, bested 11 other bowlers in last Sunday's roll-off at the Capitol Bowling Center to rule the November event. Manacop's four-game total of 756 pinfalls gave him a 55-pinfall lead over runner-up Jae Young Kim. Rusty Musca rounded out the Top 3 after earning 694 pinfalls.

The Department of Public Safety employee secured the November crown after his solid performance in the last two games. Manacop posted 235 and 209 in Games 3 and 4 to make up for his so-so scores in the first two games (170 and 140) and average 189. He is the lone bowler in the field to average at least 180 pinfalls per game, as Kim only mustered 175.25 (153, 149, 230, and 169). Musca recorded 154, 150, 188, and 202 for an average of 173.50.

Percy Omechelang averaged 173.25 to place fourth, followed by Ronald Batac (160.75), Jorge Soledad (157.75), Paul Pangelinan (149), Benjie Cruz

See BACK-TO-BACK on Page 26